SALAH • DIAZ • THIAGO • REDS IN TRAINING • COMMUNITY SHIELD PREVIEW • MANE TRIBUTE

LIVERPOOL FC



Official Liverpool FC Monthly Magazine

liverpoolfc.com












HIGH ALERT

DARWIN NUNEZ

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Reach Sport
Editor David Cottrell
Assistant Editor William Hughes
Writer Chris McLoughlin
Production Editor Michael McGuinness
Design Colin Sumpter, Lee Ashun
Contributors Dave Ball, Ged Rea
Photography Getty Images, Alamy, Mirrorpix, Liverpool Echo, John Powell, Andrew Powell, Nicholas Taylor © Liverpool Football Club & Athletic Grounds Ltd.
Published by Reach Sport Managing Director Steve Hanrahan Commercial Director Will Beedles Executive Art Editor Rick Cooke Executive Editor Paul Dove Marketing & Communications Manager Claire Brown
Printed by William Gibbons
Email liverpoolfcmag@reachsport.com
To subscribe visit www.reachsportshop.com







HEY MO, READY TO GO?

There's a big interview with Mohamed Salah elsewhere in this issue, but we couldn't kick off without celebrating the fab news about his new deal with Liverpool FC. He called it "a happy day for everyone" and said he was "so excited for the next [few] years." Us too, Mo!

The 30-year attacker, who celebrated his five-year anniversary as a Reds player last month and is now the club's ninth-highest scorer of all time, added: "I want to thank everybody who helped me to come here. There's [still] a long way to go!" His message for the supporters was: "You know me and I give everything to the club. So my message is [that] the players in the team want to give our best next season to try to win all the trophies. As usual, you stay behind us and give us a big push and I am sure we are going to win trophies again [together]. I am ready to go again!"

Manager Jürgen Klopp called the news "a special treat for our supporters… it's the best decision for us and best decision for him. He belongs with us, I think. This is his club now.

"I have no doubt Mo's best years are still to come. And that's saying something because the first five seasons here have been the stuff of legend. Fitness-wise, he's a machine – in the most incredible shape. He works hard on it and he gets his rewards. His ability and his skill level gets higher each season, and his decision-making has gone to another level also.

"He is adored by his team-mates. As coaches we know we work with someone special. And the supporters have crowned him a king. So, very cool."


MO ENJOYED HIS SUMMER HOLIDAY IN SKEGNESS

CORNER TAKEN QUICKLY



Just like Barcelona in 2019, the page where you don't know what to expect...

Double-voweled LFC XI

Bruce GrobelAAr
John Arne RIIse
Jason McAtEEr
Matt McQuEEn
Sammy LEE
RahEEm Sterling
Kevin ShEEdy
Ben WOOdburn
David AmOO
David SpEEdie
Kevin KEEgan

THINGS YOU DIDN'T NEED TO KNOW BUT MIGHT REMEMBER I •

All three players to score more than one Charity Shield goal for LFC had moustaches: McDermott, Rush and Aldridge.

OUR LADS HAVE COME FROM ALL OVER THE PLACE

Darwin Nunez (Artigas, Uruguay)

Artigas is named after Uruguay's national hero, and we don't mean Luis Suarez. Jose Gervasio Artigas was a military general who fought in the Latin American wars of Independence. Long story short, Artigas was the *libertador* who contributed to Uruguay's hard-won freedom so they named a northern city after him.

Hence the town of San Eugenio del Cuareim became the city of Artigas in 1915 and in 1999 the population of just over 40,000 was added to by the arrival of Darwin Gabriel Nunez Ribeiro, the city's second famous footballer.

Before Darwin emerged, the city of Artigas produced goalkeeper Pablo Aurrecochea who was famous for wearing cartoon characters such as Krusty the Clown, He-Man and Tom and Jerry on his kit. Which makes him sound like a Mickey Mouse goalie, but he did win a league title in Paraguay in 2010.

Speaking of keepers, Artigas is located on the Uruguayan border with Brazil and a quick ride over the Quarai River bridge takes you into Rio Grande do Sul, the Brazilian state Alisson Becker was born in.

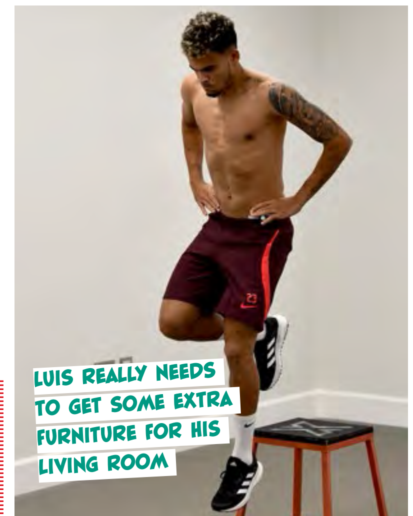


Which almost makes Darwin and Alisson neighbours, bar the fact that Ali's home city of Novo Hamburgo is an eight-hour, 631km drive away.

Should be a bit easier to meet for a *yerba-maté* in Liverpool, lads…

RANDOM CHANT OF THE MONTH

Dah-da da da da, Dah-da da da da… Dah-da da da da, Dah-da da da da… Maxi, Maxi Rodriguez, Runs down the wing for me!


LUIS REALLY NEEDS TO GET SOME EXTRA FURNITURE FOR HIS LIVING ROOM

BLAGGING IT

One of these facts about Liverpool in Europe is true, the others should head for the nearest brexit. Can EU work it out?

- ***Liverpool's 1973 European Cup match away to Jeunesse d'Esch featured a ceremonial kick-off by the Grand Duke of Luxembourg?***
- ***Liverpool's 1976 European Cup match away to Trabzonspor featured a ceremonial kick-off by Miss Turkey?***
- ***Liverpool's 1976 European Cup match away to Dinamo Tbilisi featured a ceremonial kick-off by the First Secretary of Georgia?***

Answer: we were talking turkey when it came to ceremonial kick-offs in Luxembourg and Georgia. The correct answer was that Miss Turkey kicked off Liverpool's game against Trabzonspor in 1976 after a local girl from Trabzon won the contest. We don't know why but can also confirm she didn't score the hosts' winning goal!

Milestone LFC goals

1,000:	Sam Raybould v Aston Villa (1906)
2,000:	Cyril Oxley v Newcastle (1925)
3,000:	Jack Balmer v Aston Villa (1938)
4,000:	Jimmy Melia v Leyton Orient (1958)
5,000:	Ian St John v Watford (1969)
6,000:	Terry McDermott v West Ham (1980)
7,000:	John Aldridge v Tottenham (1989)
8,000:	Michael Owen v Southampton (2000)
9,000:	Sotirios Kytgiakos v Blackpool (2010)
10,000:	Diogo Jota v Midtjylland (2020)

THINGS YOU DIDN'T NEED TO KNOW BUT MIGHT REMEMBER II •

The lowest squad number never to be worn for Liverpool is no43.

HERE COMES THE MAN

"I CAN TELL YOU, I'M REALLY ENJOYING IT SO FAR," SAYS OUR NEW FORWARD, FOR WHOM FAMILY VIBES AND FEELING HAPPY MEANS EVERYTHING

Words: William Hughes


L.F.C.
standard
chartered

In recent years Liverpool FC has specialised in getting its close-season transfer business done early. It's not always possible, but the stars certainly aligned to allow the club to complete the signing of forward Darwin Nunez from Benfica. The 23-year-old Uruguayan forward agreed a long-term contract with the Reds after finalising personal terms and completing a medical at the AXA Training Centre.

He arrives at Anfield after two seasons in Portugal with Benfica, where he scored 48 goals from his 85 appearances in all competitions. He's also earned eleven senior caps for his country to date, after making his international debut in October 2019, and he'll become the third Uruguayan to play for the Reds after striker Luis Suarez and centre-back Sebastian Coates.

Nunez's career in first-team football started at Club Atletico Penarol, having risen through the youth ranks at the famous Montevideo club. His senior debut came in November 2017 when he replaced former Reds star Maxi Rodriguez in a match away at rivals River Plate.

He made 22 competitive appearances in total for Penarol before a move to Europe beckoned. Spanish outfit UD Almeria lured him to Andalusia and not long afterwards came a call-up to the national team.

Nunez marked his senior Uruguay debut with a goal, netting just five minutes after coming on as a second-half substitute in a friendly with Peru in October 2019.

He continued to make encouraging strides during the 2019/20 campaign,

finishing his first and only season at Almeria with 16 goals from 32 outings, before Benfica came calling.

Nunez's first goals for the Portuguese giants came by way of a treble in October 2020 – a hat-trick away to Lech Poznan in the Europa League. He had the second-most assists (10) in Portugal's Primeira Liga that year and scored 14 goals in all competitions, providing the platform for the leap in development that would follow.

His 2021/22 haul of 34 goals is made even more impressive when accounting for the injury which ruled him out for most of August. Twenty-six came in the league and duly saw him awarded the Bola de Prata as the division's top scorer.

Last season Nunez also gained his first taste of the Champions League proper and opened his account in the competition against Barcelona, with two goals and the man-of-the-match performance in a 3-0 home victory over the Catalan giants.

When Benfica were paired with Liverpool in the quarter-finals he caught the eye with a goal in both legs as his side bowed out 6-4 on aggregate. "Extremely good-looking boy and a decent player as well!" said Jürgen Klopp at the time. "Really good, really good, I have to say. Obviously how you say in these situations, if he stays healthy, it's a big career ahead of him."

Two months later Klopp hailed the physical and mental attributes that had made Nunez such a compelling transfer target for the Reds. He called the signing "super news, really super news – I'm very grateful to everyone at the club for making it happen. We've shown decisiveness and ambition in equal measure.

"Darwin is a wonderful player; already really good but so much potential to get even better. That's why it's so exciting, to be honest. His age, his desire, his hunger to be even better than he currently is. His belief in our project and what we are looking to do as a club.

"He is as excited by us as we are by him, which makes for a great relationship, when you appreciate each other's strengths. That is certainly the case here.



"He thinks we suit him and we believe he is the right fit for us – so let's do it.

"He has all the pieces we look for. He can set a tempo, he brings energy, he can threaten space from central and wide areas. He is aggressive and dynamic with his movement. He plays without fear. He's powerful. I know he will excite our supporters."

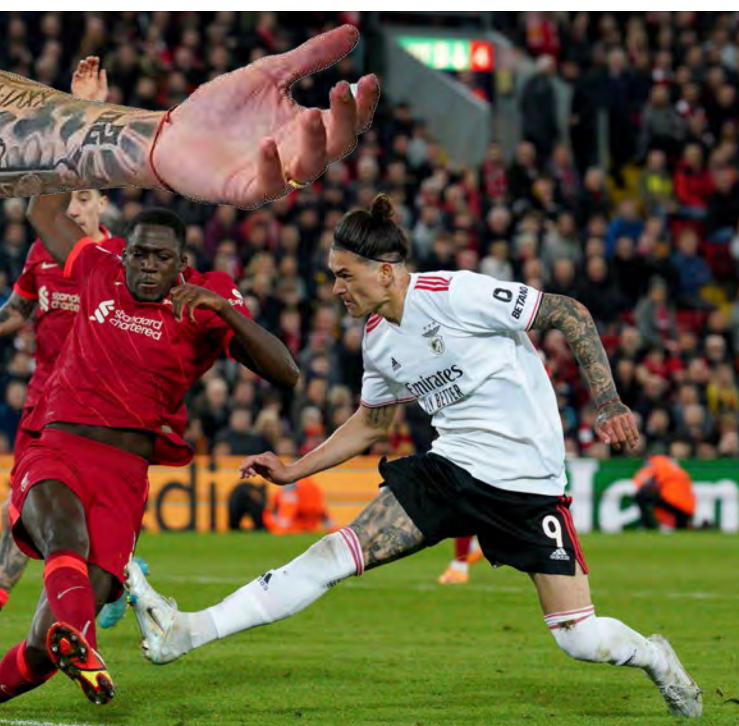
The Reds boss continued: "It's important we all recognise we are getting a 'work in progress' with Darwin. He recognises that himself, for sure. I love how much focus and humility he has.

"We have wonderful attacking options already and he becomes part of that now. So there is no pressure on him at all. He signs for a very long time and we intend to nurture his talent and see it grow.

"I'm sure our supporters will make him feel at home from the first moment he has the Liver Bird on his chest."

In the meantime, here's what Darwin himself had to say when he sat down with LFCTV soon after putting pen to paper...

HE PLAYS WITHOUT FEAR. HE'S POWERFUL. I KNOW HE WILL EXCITE OUR SUPPORTERS



DARWIN, HUGE CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME TO LIVERPOOL. TELL US HOW IT FEELS TO BE A LIVERPOOL PLAYER...

Thanks very much. I'm really happy and delighted to be here at Liverpool. It's a massive club. I'd like to thank my partner and my parents and my son, who is a real source of pride for me. They've been really important to me in the stages in my career. I'm really proud of them, and for the work we do, me and my partner as a team, and I'm grateful to her that I'm here.

It's a pleasure to be here in Liverpool and I'm very happy to be a part of this great club.

YOU'VE HAD THE CHANCE TO WALK AROUND THE TRAINING GROUND TODAY, SEE THE TROPHIES, LEARN A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE HISTORY. HAS THAT MADE IT FEEL A BIT MORE REAL FOR YOU?

Yes, of course. When I arrived at the training ground I was really surprised to see the set-up and the structure and all the trophies here. You can then imagine yourself winning more trophies and then later on when you come here again and see the trophies on display, you can say, 'Look, I was a part of that, I was there at that time, winning trophies'.

That's one of the reasons why I came here to Liverpool: to win trophies and titles. I want to win a lot of trophies at Liverpool.





WHY IS LIVERPOOL MOST SUITED TO YOU NOW AT THIS POINT IN YOUR CAREER AND FOR THE LONG-TERM?

I've played against Liverpool and I've seen them in lots of games in the Champions League, and it's my style of play. There are some great players here and I think it's going to suit my style of play here. As I say, I've watched quite a lot and it's a very big club and I hope I can give everything that I've got in order to help the team.

LIVERPOOL FANS SAW WHAT YOU HAD TO OFFER IN THE GAMES IN THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE, BUT WHAT DO YOU FEEL YOU CAN BRING TO THIS LIVERPOOL SQUAD?

It was a spectacular experience seeing what the fans are like in the stadium. It's an incredible atmosphere. I think Liverpool have got absolutely everything: good players and supporters who really help the team at certain points in the game. So yes, it is a very big club and it's going to be great here.

The atmosphere at that game was absolutely fantastic. Coming up against these great players is a great experience for me because it's something you dream about as a boy. Playing there was an incredible experience and at that moment I said to myself: it must be great to actually play here. Playing here at Liverpool, a massive team, and now I'm here for real and I'm grateful to the fans and the club for giving me this fantastic opportunity.

YOU'LL HAVE SEEN THE INTERVIEW WITH VIRGIL VAN DIJK PICKING YOU OUT AS ONE OF THE TALENTS IN EUROPEAN FOOTBALL, IN WORLD FOOTBALL AT THE MOMENT. NOW YOU'RE IN HIS TEAM, HOW WILL THAT FEEL?

It's really nice when another player speaks so positively about you and, of course, Van Dijk is a really quick and strong player. The fact that he spoke really well of me was something I was really proud about and happy. So yes, I'm proud of the effort and the hard work that I put in.

HAVE YOU HAD THE CHANCE TO SPEAK TO LUIS SUAREZ ABOUT WHAT TO EXPECT FROM LIVERPOOL AND WHAT A GREAT CLUB THAT YOU'RE JOINING?

No, not yet. I've not had a chance to be in touch with him just yet. But I'm sure when everything comes out on social media, I'll give him a call or I'll send him a photo that I've taken where he's there in the background in a picture.

I'll send that to him and we'll have a bit of a chat and I'll ask him lots of questions so he can offer his support and help because he's a real reference to me because he's a Uruguayan footballer who made history at Liverpool. But for sure I'll get the opportunity soon to call him and have a chat with him.

YOU MADE YOUR FIRST-TEAM DEBUT AT 18 AND YOU'RE NOT YET 23 – DO YOU FEEL PRESSURE OR IS THIS JUST AN UNBELIEVABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU?

No, I don't feel any added pressure at all. I went to Benfica and they asked me the same question then. I don't think a player has to feel this type of pressure, a player has to feel his own pressure he puts on himself. I don't feel pressured by anything or anybody. I think the only pressure on a player comes from within to ensure things go well.

I must have been performing pretty well to find myself at Liverpool. I want to make sure that I keep performing well, keep on the right path and don't deviate from that path, while always remaining humble and keeping my feet on the ground.



I DON'T FEEL ANY ADDED PRESSURE AT ALL. I WENT TO BENFICA AND THEY ASKED ME THE SAME QUESTION THEN. I DON'T THINK A PLAYER HAS TO FEEL THIS TYPE OF PRESSURE, A PLAYER HAS TO FEEL HIS OWN PRESSURE THAT HE PUTS ON HIMSELF

YOU ARE STILL VERY YOUNG AND WHILE LIVERPOOL FANS MIGHT BE EXPECTING GOALS STRAIGHTAWAY, YOU'RE HERE FOR THE LONG TERM, FOR THE BEST YEARS OF YOUR CAREER…

I feel very happy and very proud obviously and I'm here to contribute to the team. If I score goals or I don't score goals, I always want to give maximum effort. So let's hope things go well for me and we win even more trophies than we've already got.

I'm not too concerned about whether I'm scoring goals. Of course, as a striker you live off the goals that you score, but I find that when one goes in, more follow. The main thing for me is to help the team because they're going to need me and I'm going to need them. I can't wait to be here with my team-mates, training alongside them and getting to know them so that things can go well for us as a team.



IT'S GREAT FOR ANY PLAYER THAT A MANAGER CAN IMPROVE AND POLISH YOU AND I THINK THAT KLOPP IS GOING TO HELP ME HUGELY. I THINK THE PLAYERS THEMSELVES – LIKE FIRMINO AND THE OTHER EXPERIENCED PLAYERS – ARE GOING TO HELP ME GREATLY TOO



YOU SCORED LOTS OF GOALS LAST YEAR BUT WHEN YOU LOOK AT LIVERPOOL'S FORWARD-LINE AND YOU BEING PART OF THAT, HOW MUCH EXCITEMENT DO YOU GET ABOUT BEING PART OF IT NOW NEXT SEASON?

Hugely excited. Like I said before, there are some top, top players here with great qualities. There is Firmino who's a great player, and then Jota who is another great striker. Luis Diaz, Salah… To play alongside these 'monsters' is going to be something really special for me because as a kid you dream of going far and I dreamt of being able to play in Europe but I didn't expect to get as far as a great club like Liverpool.

I can tell you, I'm really enjoying it so far and enjoying being here with my partner. If my partner is happy, I am happier because your family is fundamental. So, there'll be a lot of competition between the forwards here but it will be healthy competition. We're all here to help each other out so everything goes well for everybody.

ALL OF THOSE PLAYERS WERE TOP, TOP PLAYERS WHEN THEY ARRIVED AT LIVERPOOL, BUT JÜRGEN KLOPP MADE THEM EVEN BETTER. IS THAT SOMETHING THAT FILLS YOU WITH EXCITEMENT AS WELL?

It's great for any player that a manager can improve and polish you and I think that Klopp is going to help me hugely. I think the players themselves – like Firmino and the other experienced players – are going to help me greatly too. It will be great that Klopp can show me lots more things. I'm still only 22 and I've got lots that I can still learn and this is a brand new experience for me.



"HE'LL WRITE HIS OWN STORY"

Ex-Reds striker and fellow countryman Luis Suarez has no doubts about the massive potential of Darwin Nunez: "He will write his own story at Liverpool. He is Uruguayan and he is a forward, but that is where the comparisons stop – he is a special player and doesn't need to be compared with anybody.

"It was last season that Europe started to take notice of him because of his performances for Benfica, but from an early age I could see there was something special in him. While he was at Almeria I recommended him to Barcelona, but it was something that never happened."

Meanwhile former England women's international Karen Carney recently wrote for *The Guardian Sport*: "Because of the team Nunez was in at Benfica he did not always have the greatest support, but he held the ball up well and could dribble. He caused some problems against Liverpool in the Champions League.

"He was very different for Benfica and stood out like a sore thumb. I always try to look not only at a player but what they have around them: Nunez had two decent wingers but the whole team was based around him. He was all about goals and even if he could not score he would hold it up and link the play. I can see why Liverpool went after him."





THE TIMING OF THE MOVE IS PERFECT, ISN'T IT, A FULL PRE-SEASON TO GET USED TO THE IDEAS OF THE BOSS AND HIS STAFF…

I'm going to be here for many years and this has only just started for me. I'll try to get some rest and relaxation with my family, and then after that start to integrate into the group in pre-season training. And from then on, start a very long career. I think it's all going to be very good.

ENGLISH LESSONS WILL START SOON BUT DO YOU HAVE A PHRASE YOU'VE PICKED UP IN THE FIRST COUPLE OF DAYS OF BEING ON MERSEYSIDE FOR THE FANS?

My English is very bad. I've got to make sure I learn it quickly, without a doubt. I think it's really important that a player can speak English because it helps you a lot in everything. But I have got one phrase: 'Boss tha!'

RAMSAY STREET



The home-kit colours may be the same but our new Scottish right-back knows that his move from Aberdeen to Anfield is a whole new ball game

Words: William Hughes

Less than a week after swooping for striker Darwin Nunez, the Reds completed the signing of Scotland Under-21s international Calvin Ramsay from Aberdeen. The teenage right-back joins on a long-term deal after making a big impression in recent times at Pittodrie.

Ramsay progressed through the youth ranks at Aberdeen to make his senior debut in March 2021 and departed having played 39 games, which produced nine assists and one goal. The 18-year-old was named the Scottish Football Writers Association's Young Player of the Year for 2021/22 and was also shortlisted for the PFA Scotland Young Player of the Year award.

"I'm just buzzing and it's a dream-come-true really to be here," Calvin told liverpoolfc.com in his first interview after sealing the switch. He's Liverpool's third new signing of the summer window following the arrivals of Fabio Carvalho and Nunez.

The defender made his senior debut for the Dons at the age of 16, coming on as a late substitute against Dundee United in March 2020. He has been capped three times by Scotland U21s so far and gained experience in the Europa Conference League with Aberdeen last season under then manager Stephen Glass. He will take the no22 shirt with the Reds.

He is the first player in more than half-a-century to join the Reds' senior squad from Aberdeen. Goalkeeper John Ogston was the last, signing for Bill Shankly in September 1965 with Liverpool paying the 'Granite City' club a fee of £10,000.

Upon his arrival, Ramsay sat down with the club's channel LFCTV to discuss his move south of the border. Here's what he said…


RAMSAY
22
L.F.C.

CALVIN, CONGRATULATIONS, WELCOME TO LIVERPOOL. HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE HERE AND A LIVERPOOL PLAYER?

Thank you very much. It's special, to be honest. I came down the day before I had my medical and had my first look around the training ground, so it's been brilliant. The facilities are unbelievable and all the staff already have been so kind to me and it's a pleasure to meet everyone. I'm looking forward to it.

WHEN YOU KNEW IT WAS LIVERPOOL AND YOU KNEW IT WAS TIME TO COME HERE, HOW DID YOU FEEL EMOTIONALLY?

Because I did well at Aberdeen, there was a lot of speculation, especially in January. But as soon as I heard the speculation from Liverpool, I just wanted to get it done – I knew that's the club that I wanted to go to.

So finally, we're here, managed to get it done and I'm just buzzing, over the moon to be here. I can't wait to meet the fans and get started and show everyone what I can do.



TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THAT THEN, BECAUSE AS SOON AS LIVERPOOL FANS HEARD YOUR NAME, THEY WERE RESEARCHING YOU. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF, WHAT'S YOUR STYLE?

So obviously I'm a right-back, pretty attacking, I like to attack. I'm okay defensively as well but my main attribute is attacking – I can put good crosses in, I like to get shots away, both feet, cutting inside, going down the line, linking up with my winger.

But just mainly I like to work hard, hard for the team, put in a shift. I'll try to do my best for the club and I'm looking forward to it.

ONE PLAYER WHO HAS REDEFINED THE MODERN-DAY RIGHT-BACK ROLE IS TRENT ALEXANDER-ARNOLD. HOW EXCITED ARE YOU ABOUT HAVING HIM AS A TEAM-MATE?

Definitely. He's a massive player, he's been brilliant so far. I watched him the whole of last season and just the way he plays, I think it's almost similar to me [in] the way he attacks and stuff like that [and] we're both still young. But he's an unreal player. So to be coming in here and learning off him, it's just going to be amazing for me and I'm going to learn a lot.

It's going to be tough, it's going to be a challenge, but it's one that I'm up for and hopefully I can go and challenge to get into the starting eleven.

YOU WON THE YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD IN SCOTLAND AND MENTIONED TRENT IN SOME OF THE INTERVIEWS…

Because obviously he's young and he's just been brilliant – everyone in football knows that. And because I'm in a similar position and there was a bit of interest from Liverpool at the time.

Even before there was interest from Liverpool, I looked up to him because he's similar to the way that I play, like I said – his attacking, his crossing, he can use both feet, his passing range is obviously quite similar to mine. Just being in here every day with not just him, but all the players, they're top professionals and I'm going to learn a lot and become a better player.

IS HIS JOURNEY FAIRLY SIMILAR TO YOURS AS WELL? YOU PLAYED IN MIDFIELD AND IT'S BEEN DOCUMENTED THAT THIS HELPED HIM BECOME THE PLAYER HE IS TODAY…

Definitely. I think I'm quite versatile as well, I can play in a few different positions. I started off in midfield, coming through [the] Aberdeen youth academy, and then I got moved out to right-back.

My first game was against Chelsea in a tournament, so it was a difficult game to go right-back for. But I did well and I've played right-back ever since. I think I'm quite composed on the ball, can find a pass, get shots away. So, I can play centre-mid, right-back, right-wing – anywhere really.

YOU GREW UP AS AN ABERDEEN FAN BUT YOUR DAD SHOWED US SOME PICTURES WHEN YOU WERE AT ANFIELD AS A TWO-YEAR-OLD…

I support Liverpool. I was here when I was young and I can remember it well. My dad showed some photos, which I don't really want to be seeing! But it's a massive club and it's an unbelievable feeling to be here and I'm ready to get started.

TELL US ABOUT THAT START THEN AS A LIVERPOOL FAN – WHO WERE THE PLAYERS YOU USED TO WATCH ON TV?

I know I'm a defender but I quite liked Luis Suarez when he was here. I thought he was brilliant. I'd say him, he was a big one. Obviously Steven Gerrard as well, he's a legend here. So hopefully I can go on and make my mark as well.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PITCH, ON THE LEFT-HAND SIDE, IS THE CAPTAIN OF YOUR COUNTRY AT THE MOMENT…

I'll learn a lot from him as well. Obviously he's Scottish, same as me, and I've seen a lot of him as well because of Liverpool and Scotland as well. So I'll be looking to learn off him.

He's a great full-back. The way he gets up and down, his energy, he can attack, he can defend. I think it's something I can definitely look forward to coming in and learning from players like that. Obviously I need to learn a bit more defensively, I can learn from those two as well. I'm excited.

DO YOU FEEL THE PRESSURE, OR IS THIS JUST SOMETHING YOU FEEL IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU?

Not really, to be honest. I think I'm quite calm and composed when I get on the pitch. Because I've done well at Aberdeen, I sort of knew that the speculation would come. But I'm just buzzing and it's a dream-come-true really to be here. It was a dream-come-true to play for Aberdeen, and now to be at one of the biggest, if not the biggest club in the world, it's a massive achievement and I'm looking forward to trying to show the fans what I've got.

Hopefully I can come in in pre-season, show everyone at the club, the staff, players what I've got and then we'll see what happens from there.

YOU GET TO KNOW THE LADS, YOU GET TO PLAY IN THE PRE-SEASON GAMES BEFORE YOU GO INTO THE REAL THING…

Definitely. It'll be good. It's obviously going to be a challenge but I'm just looking forward to meeting the guys, I'm sure they're all brilliant guys. Training with them, I know it's going to be tough but I'm always up for a challenge.

THERE'S A VERY OBVIOUS ROUTE HERE FOR YOUNG PLAYERS AS WELL, WITH A MANAGER THAT WILL GIVE YOUNG PLAYERS, IF THEY'RE GOOD ENOUGH, A CHANCE…

Definitely. There's been a lot of young players that have played – the likes of Trent and Harvey as well, there's a lot more. But there's obviously a pathway here – that's one of the reasons I chose it as well.

It's not just a massive club – they give young players chances in the first team. So if I can come in in pre-season, put my mark down, then there's no reason why I can't push to get in the first-team squad.

THE MANAGER WILL TELL YOU WHAT HE EXPECTS FROM YOU AS A LIVERPOOL PLAYER. HOW EXCITED ARE YOU TO WORK WITH HIM?

I'm very excited. He's a top guy. Obviously I've seen his hugs on telly and that, so hopefully I'll get one of them! But he's a top manager, one of the best ever potentially, so it's going to be special to work under him and I'm looking forward to meeting him.

YOU'VE SPOKEN ABOUT SOME OF YOUR QUALITIES SO FAR AND LOOKING AT THE PREMIER LEAGUE FROM AFAR, IS THAT SOMETHING YOU THINK IS SUITED TO YOUR GAME?

Obviously it's the biggest league in the world and the standard is very high – but I think I can compete with that. I've got the qualities, I'm technically quite good, I like getting on the ball, receiving the ball, going at people, linking up with players. So there's lots of things that I can benefit from if I get into the Liverpool team and hopefully play in the Premier League. So it's exciting times ahead, for sure.



FOR BEING SO YOUNG, I'VE PLAYED QUITE A LOT OF GAMES AT ABERDEEN. I'D ALSO SAY I'M QUITE MATURE, TO BE HONEST. TO GO IN AND BE AS CONSISTENT AS I WAS AT ABERDEEN, OBVIOUSLY IT'S NOT EASY

PEOPLE LOOK AT YOUR AGE AND THINK: HE'S A YOUNG PLAYER. BUT YOU HAVE GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR AGE…

For being so young, I've played quite a lot of games at Aberdeen. I'd also say I'm quite mature, to be honest. To go in and be as consistent as I was at Aberdeen, obviously it's not easy but I've dreamt of it all my life, playing for Aberdeen, and I knew once I got the opportunity I just needed to take it and that's what I did. Hopefully I can go and do that here as well.



NOW YOU'VE GOT THE SHIRT ON AND IT'S BECOME REAL, HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT IT WILL FEEL LIKE TO RUN OUT AT ANFIELD?

Not really, to be honest. I've not got many words, to be honest. It's just going to be special and I'm looking forward to it. I'm buzzing.

THE QUALITY OF THE SQUAD WAS ALREADY AT A SUPREME LEVEL AND YOU'RE GOING TO BE PART OF THAT NOW – HOW DOES THAT FEEL?

There's top players here. Obviously Fabio's in, Darwin just signed, so there's top players here – I know that. It's going to be a bit nerve-wracking to start with – I know that – but once I get used to all the boys and settle in, it's just going to be brilliant and I'm looking forward to it.

WHAT WILL A DREAM SEASON LOOK LIKE FOR YOU NEXT YEAR?

I'd say just to make my debut. I think making my debut will be special but obviously the more appearances, the better. But the main thing is just to get on that pitch at Anfield and try to put my marker down, show everyone what I've got, like I've said. Hopefully I can do that.

IT'S GOING TO BE A BIT NERVE-WRACKING TO START WITH BUT ONCE I GET USED TO ALL THE BOYS AND SETTLE IN, IT'S JUST GOING TO BE BRILLIANT AND I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT



"THERE'S LOTS TO LIKE"

Jürgen Klopp is confident Calvin Ramsay will continue his impressive and swift development after sealing a move to Liverpool FC. "Calvin is another exciting young player, so we're very pleased," the manager told the club website of his third recruit of the summer.

"He has bags of potential. He is only 18 years old at the moment, although turns 19 soon and already has a decent number of first-team appearances for a defender of his age. He is athletic, smart, confident, with good technical ability and – always crucial – is eager to learn. So there's lots to like. Experiences of European and under-21 international football have been really important for him and his development, too.

"Signing so early in the window is fantastic for him as it means he'll be with us for pre-season. That helps so much, particularly for a younger signing coming to us. He and we will have patience with each other. I think we have proved ours is the ideal environment to nurture and harness the qualities and talent of a young player. So we're all really looking forward to working with him and seeing him improve and develop."

FABIO FANTASTICO

The boss says simply, "What a talent." The player himself says, "I'm very excited to get started." It's Carvalho time, Kopites…

Nine days after making his Premier League debut for Fulham as a late substitute in the West London derby against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, Fabio Carvalho experienced relegation.

The 18-year-old attacking midfielder, who played for 12 minutes in a 2-0 defeat at Chelsea, had previously played for 12 minutes on his Fulham debut against Sheffield Wednesday in the League Cup in August 2020. He also got eight minutes on his FA Cup debut against Burnley in January 2021.

But now he had some Premier League minutes under his belt and when Fulham's return to the Championship was confirmed, manager Scott Parker decided it was time to embrace the future.



Born in Torres Vedras – a municipality of Lisbon – Carvalho is a Benfica fan who moved to London with his family as an eleven-year-old. He signed for Fulham two years later, after being spotted playing for South London youth side Balham Blazers, and after progressing to Fulham's Under-23s was given the opportunity to start in the Cottagers' final three Premier League games.

Seventy-five minutes into his first start, away to Southampton, he ran onto pass inside the Saints box and clipped a shot in off the underside of the crossbar to net his first Premier League goal in style. "I just saw a gap at the near post so I put it there," he said afterwards. "I got caught in two minds a bit. I didn't know where to strike it and then I was like 'nah, I just wanna take this chance'."

Carvalho, who wore the no48 shirt, also started in a 1-1 draw at Manchester United and made his home Premier League debut on the final day of the season against Newcastle. A month later, manager Parker left Fulham to take charge at Bournemouth, but his replacement, former Hull City, Watford and Everton boss Marco Silva, proved to be an ideal appointment for young Fabio.

Also Lisbon-born, Silva immediately recognised the young talent he had inherited and, despite his lack of experience and the pressure of trying to win promotion back to the Premier League at the first attempt, installed Carvalho as his first-choice no10. It paid dividends straightaway.

Carvalho started the 2021/22 campaign like the proverbial house on fire. He netted three goals and provided one assist in five Championship games in August but was then sidelined for two months with a toe injury and COVID-19.

When he was fit to start again, on 20 November, he returned with a goal during a 4-1 win against Barnsley, but it was January 2022 when Carvalho ran into red-hot form. Fulham beat both Bristol City and Birmingham City 6-2 at Craven Cottage in the space of four days with Carvalho scoring three of their 12 goals and creating another.

He followed it up with assists against Stoke, Blackpool and Millwall and on January transfer-deadline day was Liverpool-bound after the Reds agreed a deal with Fulham. Unfortunately the proposed move couldn't be completed before the 11pm deadline, but Fabio shrugged the disappointment off in his next game by opening the scoring at Manchester City in an FA Cup tie. The Cityzens won 4-1, but Carvalho's new team-mates ended their FA Cup run in the semi-final at Wembley.

As Fulham's promotion campaign gathered pace, Carvalho

Words: Chris McLoughlin







was nominated for Championship Young Player of the Year – an award ultimately won by Nottingham Forest's Brennan Johnson – and in April newspaper reports suggested that he would complete a move to Anfield on 1 July.

He finished Fulham's Championship-winning campaign with ten goals, eight assists and five yellow cards from 36 appearances while playing alongside ex-Red Harry Wilson and the on-loan Neco Williams. And now, six months later than initially hoped, Fabio Carvalho is a Liverpool player.

It's quite a rise for a teenager who was initially spotted playing for a local youth team, although may well have been on Liverpool's radar for some time. In September 2018 he captained Fulham U18s during a 3-1 win against Norwich City U18s at Motspur Park. The goalscorers that day? Harvey Elliott (2), Carvalho (1). Elliott played on the right of a 4-2-3-1, Carvalho as a no8. A sign of things to come at Anfield?

A nimble, tricky, right-footed player who likes to drift to the left and cut inside onto his right foot, Carvalho also played as a wide-player for Fulham U18s and some observers believe he may yet be best as an eight. Without wishing to make a direct comparison, Jürgen Klopp used Philippe Coutinho in all of those roles and there are elements of Carvalho's game that will remind Kopites of the Brazilian. Not that he's giving anything away just yet on Carvalho's likely position.

"What a talent he is, hey?" said the Liverpool boss. "A player who can bring a stadium to its feet. He puts his personality into his performances, he is confident and adventurous with the ball, and he wants to make things happen. He is a versatile player for sure and is very much an attacking threat with his creativity and dynamism.

"It doesn't really need saying, but it is worth reminding everyone that he will of course need patience. It's a step-up, but one we know he is more than capable of making, which is why we were so keen for so long to sign him for Liverpool.

"He has the perfect environment here to learn and develop. He has a dressing-room full of the best teachers in football who will help him settle and adapt.

"With us, a player of Fabio's profile will get opportunity along with space to improve, learn and develop further. I'm looking forward to working with him and seeing him in a red jersey."

Fabio, who will wear the no28 shirt having worn it for Fulham last season, is also buzzing to be a Red and after being unveiled earlier this month he sat down with LFCTV to give his first interview as a Liverpool player…

FAB, CONGRATULATIONS – IT'S HAPPENED, YOU'RE HERE, YOU'RE A LIVERPOOL PLAYER. HOW DOES IT FEEL?

I'm a bit speechless, to be fair. It's just an amazing feeling to be here at one of the biggest clubs in the world, if not the biggest. So, I'm just happy to be here and I can't wait to get started.

TELL US ABOUT THE FEELING WHEN THE INTEREST BECAME CLEAR, THAT YOU WOULD HAVE THE CHOICE OF COMING TO LIVERPOOL. WHY WAS THIS CLUB THE RIGHT MOVE AND THE RIGHT FEEL FOR YOU?

To be fair, I had a bit of interest from a lot of clubs but I didn't let that get to my head because obviously I had a season to focus on. Once you hear that Liverpool are interested, there's only one thought in your mind which is to join them and try to be in and around the team. Hopefully I can achieve big things.

DID IT FEEL RIGHT WHEN YOU HAD THE TALKS AND LIVERPOOL WERE THE FRONT-RUNNERS?

Yeah, I spoke with everyone, and the manager, and it just felt so natural. When things become natural it's just so much easier to make a decision.

FANS WILL HAVE READ ABOUT YOUR STORY; YOU CAME OVER AS AN ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD FROM LISBON, YOU DIDN'T HAVE A ROUTE INTO AN ACADEMY HERE, YOU FOUND YOUR WAY THROUGH AN AMATEUR TEAM. TELL US ABOUT THAT…

When I first came to England and the UK it was a bit hard because I didn't speak the language. Neither did my brother and

my sister, and it was a bit hard in the beginning. We were just looking for a team because all I wanted to do was play football.

Luckily we found Balham Blazers, it's not the biggest team in the world but they helped me so much to get here and I'm always thankful for that, because they just helped me to be able to show my full potential and put me on a stage where teams could come and look for me, like Fulham did. And I ended up signing for Fulham. So, the same way I'm thankful for Fulham, I'm even more thankful for Balham Blazers.

WHAT ABOUT FULHAM, THEN? WHAT WAS GREAT ABOUT THEM IN TERMS OF HELPING YOU TO THE NEXT STAGE?
It was good, it was amazing. Like I said, I owe a lot to them because I was there for eight or nine years and I managed to work my way all the way up to first-team level. They helped me every day on and off the pitch, they were really supportive and I owe a lot to them as well.

WHAT AN EXPERIENCE LAST SEASON WAS, TO COME UP TO THE PREMIER LEAGUE. WHAT WAS THAT LIKE, PLAYING IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP AND HELPING THEM TO GET PROMOTED?
It was an unbelievable experience because obviously it was my first full season as a professional footballer. Like any other player, there's highs and lows but it was just a great experience being able to establish myself in the first-team environment with all the great players at Fulham, who helped me every day as well. It was just an amazing feeling.



DO YOU FEEL THE STYLE FULHAM PLAYED WILL HELP YOU COMING HERE TO LIVERPOOL?
Yeah, because Marco Silva, the way he plays football and made us play football, is more like attacking football and getting goals, which is similar to how Liverpool play, which is to score goals and dominate games. That's what I'm here to do, to be able to help the team with my assists, creativity and goals. I'm looking forward to it.

I SPOKE WITH EVERYONE, AND THE MANAGER, AND IT JUST FELT SO NATURAL. WHEN THINGS BECOME NATURAL IT'S JUST SO MUCH EASIER TO MAKE A DECISION



AT THE AGE OF 19, WITH THAT AMOUNT OF EXPERIENCE ALREADY BEHIND YOU, DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE READY TO CONTRIBUTE STRAIGHTAWAY AT LIVERPOOL?

Yeah, of course. I feel like, to be the best player in the world you have to play with the best and that's what I'm here to do.

YOU'LL HAVE LOOKED AT LIVERPOOL LAST YEAR PROBABLY THINKING ONE DAY YOU COULD PLAY HERE – HOW DO YOU LOOK AT LAST SEASON AND SUM THIS TEAM UP?

The togetherness within the team, everyone just seems so close. I know it's a bit of a cliched thing to say but it feels like from the outside I can see it as like a big family. Even when things don't go too well, everyone sticks together. It helps players individually, especially the young players, so I'm looking forward to that.

YOU MENTIONED JÜRGEN KLOPP BEFORE – WHAT CAN HE DO TO HELP YOU TO THE NEXT STEP?

One of the main reasons I joined was because of him; I've seen what he's done to develop players to the next step and I'm sure he's the right person to do so with me.

BEING ABLE TO HAVE MY FAMILY AROUND ME IS WHAT DREAMS ARE MADE OF. BUT I ALWAYS TELL MYSELF, I HAVEN'T REALLY MADE IT BECAUSE THERE'S ALWAYS A NEXT STEP AND I'M ALWAYS LOOKING TO GET BETTER EACH DAY. HOPEFULLY THEY'RE PROUD OF ME





I WANT TO WIN AS MANY TROPHIES AS I CAN AT LIVERPOOL AND TO BE THE BEST IN THE WORLD

YOU LOOKED AROUND THE DRESSING-ROOM BEFORE AND THE NAMES OF SOME OF THE PLAYERS YOU'LL BE PLAYING WITH. YOU WON'T BE IN AWE OF THESE PLAYERS BUT HOW EXCITED ARE YOU THAT YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN THE SAME TEAM AS THEM?
Yeah, there's some big names and I'm looking to make a big name for myself as well. There's big players and I'm just looking forward to learning from every single one of them, from their different experiences. I think they'll be able to help me and hopefully I'll be able to help them.

THEY HAVE HAD SUCCESS, THEY'RE WINNERS – ARE YOU CONFIDENT YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THAT GOING FORWARD?
A hundred per cent, yeah. If I wasn't confident, I wouldn't be in the position I am today. I just have to be able to show my full football and hopefully I'll be able to help the team.

THE CLUB'S SIGNINGS HAVE BEEN VERY EXCITING THIS SUMMER. YOU'RE A BENFICA FAN AS WELL – HOW EXCITED SHOULD WE BE ABOUT DARWIN NUNEZ?
Yeah, he's good. My dad is a big fan of Benfica as well and he loves him! So, I'm sure my dad is happy as well that I'll be able to play with him. Darwin Nunez is a great signing and I'm sure I'll be too as well.

THERE WAS A LOVELY MOMENT EARLIER WHEN YOU WERE LOOKING AROUND THE TRAINING GROUND WITH YOUR DAD. THE SACRIFICE YOUR FAMILY HAS MADE TO GET YOU TO THIS STAGE MUST BE HEARTFELT TOO?
Not just my dad, my whole family in general; they help me each day and kept me going because family is one of the most important things. Being able to share these moments with them is everything to me because they mean a lot, as well as my friends and my girlfriend as well.

Being able to have everyone around me is what dreams are made of. But I always tell myself, I haven't really made it because there's always a next step and I'm always looking to get better each day. Hopefully they're proud of me as much as I'm proud of myself.



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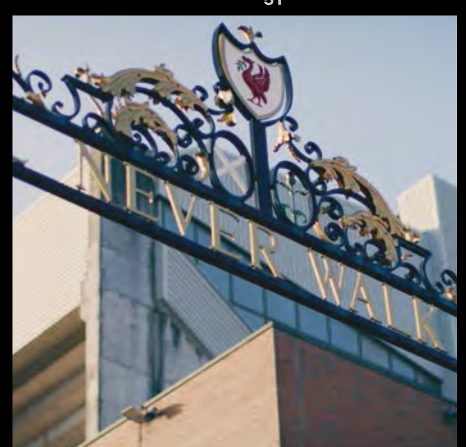
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LIVERPOOL FC
LIVERPOOL WAS
MADE FOR ME
& I WAS MADE
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FOR THE FANS, IT HAS BEEN A BRILLIANT WEEK. THEY SEE YOU SIGN AND THEY SAW MO SALAH RECOMMIT ON FRIDAY – IT BRINGS A BIG SMILE TO EVERYONE'S FACE…
Yeah, of course. I'm happy he's signed a new deal as well because he's one of the best in the world and I want to learn from him. I'm sure all the fans are happy and hopefully we can win as many trophies this year.

YOU'VE GOT GREAT FLEXIBILITY ABOUT YOUR GAME; YOU'LL PLAY ANYWHERE TO BE IN THE TEAM BUT WHERE DO YOU FEEL MOST COMFORTABLE?
Obviously at Fulham I played more in the no10 role; it just depends on which formation we play. But I also fancy the wing because I'm creative enough to go one-v-one and create things. But like you said, I'm more than comfortable playing anywhere but those two positions are where I want to play.

HARVEY ELLIOTT IS SOMEONE YOU KNOW VERY WELL – HOW MUCH OF A PART DID HE PLAY IN HOW EXCITED YOU SHOULD BE TO BE PART OF IT ALL?
I don't think you really need any persuasion to become a Liverpool player because of how big the club is. But I spoke to him and he just said great things. I spoke to Neco [Williams] and Harry Wilson and they had nothing but great things to say about Liverpool. So, it was kind of an easy decision.

YOU PROBABLY CAN'T WAIT TO GET STARTED WITH PRE-SEASON NOW?
I'm very excited to get started. Obviously pre-season is not the most fun bit about football but it's something you have to do and get over and done with. It's just a good way to get to know everyone and get to know the players, so I just can't wait to get started. I'm looking forward to every single bit of pre-season and the years to come.





I'M VERY EXCITED TO GET STARTED. PRE-SEASON IS A GOOD WAY TO GET TO KNOW EVERYONE AND THE PLAYERS, SO I JUST CAN'T WAIT TO GET STARTED. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO EVERY SINGLE BIT OF PRE-SEASON AND THE YEARS TO COME

IS THERE A STORY BEHIND WHY YOU'RE STICKING WITH 28 AS YOUR SHIRT NUMBER?
To be fair, I only picked it at Fulham because it was the only kind of low number available when I first got into the first team. But I made a promise to the kit man at Fulham that I'm going to keep that number because I did well with that number. So, why change it? If it's not broken, don't fix it.

WHAT DO YOU DREAM ABOUT, WHAT IS THE EVENTUAL VISION FOR YOU HERE?
To win as many trophies as I can at Liverpool and to be the best in the world.

FINALLY, NOW IT'S A REALITY YOU'RE A LIVERPOOL PLAYER, HOW DOES IT FEEL?
Like I said at the beginning, it's just an amazing feeling. I'm sure my family are proud. All praise to the most high and I'm just happy to be here.

THE BOYS ARE BACK



'Did you miss me amigos?'





Pre-season 2022/23 starts here! The first day back at work saw several Reds report to the AXA Training Centre for their first physical tests and assessments by the club's medical staff



Kop tip: Always remember to remove the full packaging when you unbox a new player



Worst. Sunloungers. Ever.


When you're made-up on your first day at a new school




Joe Gomez shows off his new dance moves in the gym


'You're not going to write a book like Robbo did are you?'

After passing these tests, Joe and Hendo can now fly for NASA



Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain is fully-charged up ahead of the new Premier League season



'Anyone seen my gloves?'

How long until Harvey Elliott goes full Stevie G and kisses the camera?



Harvey couldn’t weight to get in the gym...





‘You still here?’ – the AXA wouldn’t be the same without Hendo and Milly


Luis Diaz with the fancy new water bottle he got on his jollies


This isn't how you go paddleboarding, Harvey

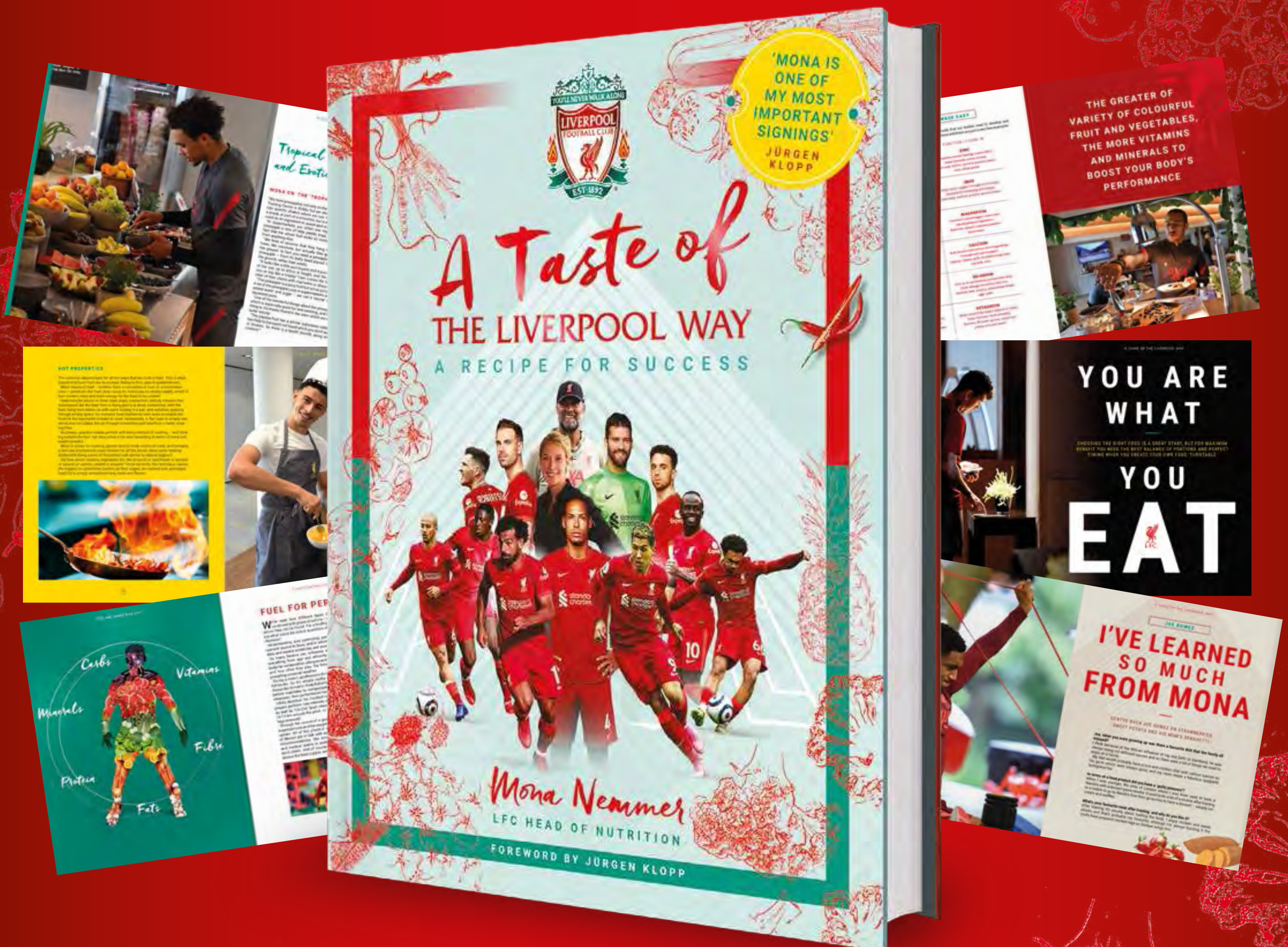



'Hope they've plugged it in', thinks Caoimhin

‘MONA IS ONE OF MY MOST IMPORTANT SIGNINGS’

‘This book gives our fans the chance to learn about nutrition from Mona – just as our players do!’

JÜRGEN KLOPP



Liverpool FC’s head of nutrition **Mona Nemmer** makes sure that the Liverpool FC players eat the right things in the right way and at the right times.
In this fascinating new book she shows fans of all ages what food can help them to be healthy like their heroes and shares favourite recipes of the football superstars.

Available from liverpoolfc.com/store and reachsportshop.com



Fabio Carvalho eases his way into Liverpool life with a pedal around the AXA Training Centre gym

Milly prefers gegenpressing to bench-pressing any day



Harvey, describe day one of pre-season in an expression



Did we mention Fabio is going to represent Portugal in the Olympic long-jump?



The Ox reveals how much he's already missing Divock Origi



No context Joel Matip

AGENTS OF

Jürgen Klopp is bidding to claim a 'missing' trophy as his Reds appear in the FA Community Shield at Leicester for the second time in their history

There aren't many trophies missing from Jürgen Klopp's roll of honour at Anfield but the FA Community Shield is one of them, and the Liverpool manager will be hoping it's a case of third-time-lucky on Saturday 30 July when the Reds take on Manchester City at Leicester City's King Power Stadium.

In recent times Liverpool have twice tasted Wembley defeat in the traditional curtain-raiser after losing penalty shoot-outs to City in 2019 and Arsenal 12 months later.

With the Women's Euros final taking place at the national stadium the following day, this year's Community Shield fixture has been switched to Leicester...which is also what happened way back in 1971 for a fixture neither side had qualified for!

The Shield is traditionally contested between the top-flight champions and the winners of the FA Cup. But in 1971 Arsenal won both trophies, meaning an opponent needed to be found.

However, the FA's plans were thrown into further confusion when the Gunners announced they'd be playing Benfica twice then Feyenoord in pre-season friendlies around the same time. So instead Liverpool were asked to play, having been edged out in extra-time by Arsenal in the FA Cup final a couple of months earlier.

Back then, Wembley did not host the game – it was usually played at the home of the league champions. But Anfield was undergoing renovations that summer so it would have to be played 'away from home'.

Leeds (league runners-up), Tottenham (League Cup winners) and Chelsea (European Cup Winners' Cup winners) were all considered. But the *Liverpool Echo* reported that "Leeds are unable to stage the match because of ground alterations and Spurs will be away on tour in Scotland... Chelsea would make ideal opponents for Liverpool at Stamford Bridge [or] the alternative is to select an FA XI or line the Reds up against Skelmersdale, the Merseyside winners of the FA Amateur Cup!

"Liverpool have had to make alternative arrangements themselves. They were due to play Blackpool at Bloomfield Road on 7 August, while a match with Wrexham at the Racecourse for Arfon Griffiths' testimonial, due to be played on 30 July, will now be played two days earlier because of Wrexham's commitments in the pre-season Watney Cup tournament."

However, in the end the FA chose Leicester City, the Second Division champions. And so, after all that, a crowd of 25,104 turned up at Filbert Street, then the home of the Foxes, on the first Saturday of August 1971.



SHIELD

Words: William Hughes



Reds boss Bill Shankly had been relatively quiet in the transfer market that summer, with only promising youngster Kevin Keegan arriving from Scunthorpe while veteran attacker Ian St John had moved on after a decade of distinguished service.

It was Leicester's first game against top-flight opposition since going up, and they had a new manager in place in Jimmy Bloomfield. Previous boss Frank O'Farrell, who'd masterminded their successful promotion, had been poached by Manchester United. The Anfield Reds had developed a rivalry with the Foxes during the late 1960s with Leicester becoming something of a 'bogey side'. That continued with the hosts winning the game thanks to an unlikely marksman.

Leicester defender Steve Whitworth played 400 times for the club, including 17 against Liverpool. He scored only one goal and it proved decisive in winning the Charity Shield, as it was then known, for the team he had supported since childhood.

The right-back's moment of glory came in the 15th minute when he capitalised on a spot of pinball in the penalty area to beat Liverpool goalkeeper Ray Clemence from close-range. "I made a real long, overlapping run," he told *The Guardian* in 2016. "I got into their area and just slid the ball across their six-yard box."

Whitworth's cross was aimed for forward Rodney Fern, who'd nipped in ahead of Tommy Smith but could not get a proper effort on



THE REDS HAVE WON OR SHARED THE SHIELD IN 15 OUT OF 23 APPEARANCES AND WERE LAST VICTORIOUS IN 2006 WHEN THEY BEAT CHELSEA 2-1 IN CARDIFF





goal. Clemence went for the cross then stopped and scrambled back.

Whitworth continued: "I tapped it in with my left foot, and if you ever watched me play, my left foot was purely for standing on, I assure you. It was amazing how it all happened."

But Leicester were good value for their victory with Clemence making several saves in the early August sunshine as the Reds were unable to create many openings for attackers Alun Evans and Bobby Graham. The *Guardian* match report noted: "Liverpool have to ask themselves if they can afford such a defensive system on the faster grounds at the start of the season. Clemence is brave and able but like that Texas trouble-shooter who puts out the big old fires ['Red Adair'] he must fail sometimes."

Leicester became only the second club to win the Shield having not won league or cup, the other being Brighton in 1910. There was not much fanfare about the achievement, however, and the silverware was presented away from the public, below the stands at Filbert Street. This was partly because of a pitch invasion that had taken place when the Foxes had received the Second Division trophy.

It was the first of five appearances by Liverpool in the curtain-raiser during the 1970s. They won three of the other four and shared the trophy with Manchester United following a goalless draw in 1977.

With another seven appearances in the 1980s, it became something of a saying that you knew it was the start of the football season when you saw Liverpool walking out at Wembley for the Charity Shield.

The Reds have won or shared it in 15 of 23 appearances. They were last victorious in 2006 when they beat Chelsea 2-1 at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium thanks to goals from John Arne Riise and Peter Crouch.

More recently Liverpool were asked to contest the 2019 fixture having amassed 97 Premier League points as runners-up to double-winners Manchester City during the 2018/19 campaign.

Ex-Liverpool winger Raheem Sterling put Pep Guardiola's side in front early on at Wembley but the Reds replied through Joel Matip to take the game to penalties. Although Liverpool lost the shoot-out 5-4, the travelling Kop saw enough signs at 'Anfield South' to suggest their team would compete for honours again in 2019/20 – and they duly responded by ending a 30-year wait for a top-flight title.

As champions of England, the Reds took their place in the 2020 Community Shield encounter, facing Mikel Arteta's Arsenal, the reigning FA Cup holders. Gunners forward Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang fired Arsenal into a 12th-minute lead before Takumi Minamino levelled late-on. Like City 12 months earlier, Arsenal won the shoot-out 5-4.

This time the King Power Stadium will be the venue as FA Cup winners Liverpool look to start the season with some early silverware against Premier League champions City in the latest instalment of this 'rivalry for the ages'.

LFC IN THE FA CHARITY/COMMUNITY SHIELD

YEAR	OPPONENT	VENUE	SCORE
1922	Huddersfield Town	Old Trafford	0-1
1964	West Ham United	Anfield	2-2*
1965	Manchester United	Old Trafford	2-2*
1966	Everton	Goodison Park	1-0
1971	Leicester City	Filbert Street	0-1
1974	Leeds United	Wembley (LFC won 6-5 on penalties)	1-1
1976	Southampton	Wembley	1-0
1977	Manchester United	Wembley	0-0*
1979	Arsenal	Wembley	3-1
1980	West Ham United	Wembley	1-0
1982	Tottenham	Wembley	1-0
1983	Manchester United	Wembley	0-2
1984	Everton	Wembley	0-1
1986	Everton	Wembley	1-1*
1988	Wimbledon	Wembley	2-1
1989	Arsenal	Wembley	1-0
1990	Manchester United	Wembley	1-1*
1992	Leeds United	Wembley	3-4
2001	Manchester United	Millennium Stadium	2-1
2002	Arsenal	Millennium Stadium	0-1
2006	Chelsea	Millennium Stadium	2-1
2019	Manchester City	Wembley (Man City won 5-4 on penalties)	1-1
2020	Arsenal	Wembley (Arsenal won 5-4 on penalties)	1-1

**** Shield shared***



FIXTURES & FITTINGS

There's a lot to squeeze into the forthcoming season and, we hope, more to take out by the end!

If Liverpool are to repeat last season's feat of playing in every game available to them, they will have to tackle an even more gruelling fixture list! With the FA Community Shield curtain-raiser against Manchester City later this month starting their programme, manager Jürgen Klopp and his squad will be aiming to contest 64 matches in 2022/23, rather than 63!

The FIFA World Cup being held in Qatar in November and December will make for a unique season with games shoe-horned in either side of the tournament in the Middle East.

For the first time, Premier League clubs will be able to call upon five substitutes – something JK had campaigned for in recent years and a change which might give his men a fighting chance of coping with the demands of such a punishing schedule ahead.

And for the first time, the Emirates FA Cup final will be played in June, while if the Reds are to return to the Ataturk Stadium in Istanbul – scene of their memorable 2005 triumph – to play in their fourth UEFA Champions League final in six years, they will do so on the second Saturday in June 2023.

The group stages of the Champions League will be completed by early November and will include three rounds of games in October. Matchday five, on 25/26 October, should see Klopp take charge of Liverpool in a competitive fixture for the 400th time.

The Reds' bid to retain the Carabao Cup will be delayed until November with England's European representatives only entering the tournament at the third-round stage once the initial series of games in continental competition are completed. Should Liverpool win that round-three fixture, their return to action following the FIFA World Cup will also be in the Carabao Cup with fourth-round ties being played in the midweek before Christmas – just days after the World Cup final at the Lusail Iconic Stadium in Doha.

The Reds' Premier League season kicks off at Craven Cottage against Marco Silva's promoted Fulham on 6 August. If James Milner features in that game on the banks of the Thames, he will become the 16th man to make 200 Premier League appearances for the club.

Two other player landmarks to look out for in 2022/23. First, captain Jordan Henderson's next outing will see him become just the 22nd player to make 450 appearances for Liverpool.

Second, Mo Salah is eleven goals away from becoming LFC's all-time leading Premier League marksman. The prolific no11 is currently joint-third in the standings with Michael Owen on 118 and trails only Steven Gerrard (120) and Robbie Fowler (128).

Highlights of the Premier League schedule, with the first game at Anfield being the Monday night visit of Crystal Palace on 15 August, also include first top-flight meetings with Nottingham Forest since the

Words: William Hughes





1998/99 campaign. Liverpool return to the City Ground, where they won an Emirates FA Cup quarter-final last season, on the weekend of 22 October with Steve Cooper's side due at Anfield exactly six months afterwards in late April.

The first Merseyside derby of the season and 241st of all-time takes place at Goodison Park just after noon on the first weekend of September, with the Reds hosting the Blues in the second week of February.

Clashes with Pep Guardiola's Manchester City have been crucial in recent seasons and Anfield will host the first meeting between the two heavyweights on 15 October with the return at the Etihad Stadium currently set for the opening day of April.

Other highlights include an early trip to Old Trafford with the Reds due to take on Erik ten Hag's new-look Manchester United on Monday 21 August with the reverse fixture taking place in L4 in early March 2023.

Liverpool will return to league action following the FIFA World Cup with a Boxing Day trip to Steven Gerrard's Aston Villa while the final fortnight of the league campaign will see the team sign off at Anfield against Villa on the weekend of 20 May before concluding proceedings at St Mary's, Southampton on Sunday 28 May 2023 – a day Kopites hope will be one of great celebration!

JULY				
30	Manchester City	N	CS	5pm
AUGUST				
6	Fulham	A	PL	12.30pm
15	**Crystal Palace**	**H**	**PL**	**8pm**
22	Manchester United	A	PL	8pm
27	**Bournemouth**	**H**	**PL**	**3pm**
31	**Newcastle United**	**H**	**PL**	**8pm**
SEPTEMBER				
3	Everton	A	PL	12.30pm
6/7	UEFA Champions League M1			
10	**Wolves**	**H**	**PL**	**3pm**
13/14	UEFA Champions League M2			
18	Chelsea	A	PL	4.30pm
OCTOBER				
1	**Brighton**	**H**	**PL**	**3pm**
4/5	UEFA Champions League M3			
8	Arsenal	A	PL	3pm
11/12	UEFA Champions League M4			
15	**Manchester City**	**H**	**PL**	**3pm**
19	**West Ham**	**H**	**PL**	**8pm**
22	Nottm Forest	A	PL	3pm
25/26	UEFA Champions League M5			
29	**Leeds United**	**H**	**PL**	**3pm**
NOVEMBER				
1/2	UEFA Champions League M6			
5	Tottenham	A	PL	3pm
8/9	Carabao Cup 3			
12	**Southampton**	**H**	**PL**	**3pm**
DECEMBER				
20/21	Carabao Cup 4			
26	Aston Villa	A	PL	3pm
31	**Leicester City**	**H**	**PL**	**3pm**
JANUARY				
2	Brentford	A	PL	3pm
7	Emirates FA Cup 3			
10/11	Carabao Cup Q-F			
14	Brighton	A	PL	3pm
21	**Chelsea**	**H**	**PL**	**3pm**
25	Carabao Cup S-F 1			
28	Emirates FA Cup 4			
FEBRUARY				
1	Carabao Cup S-F 2			
4	Wolves	A	PL	3pm
11	**Everton**	**H**	**PL**	**3pm**
14/15	UEFA Champions League R16 1			
18	Newcastle	A	PL	3pm
21/22	UEFA Champions League R16 1			
25	Crystal Palace	A	PL	3pm
26	Carabao Cup final	N		
MARCH				
1	Emirates FA Cup 5			
4	**Manchester United**	**H**	**PL**	**3pm**
7/8	UEFA Champions League R16 2			
11	Bournemouth	A	PL	3pm
14/15	UEFA Champions League R16 2			
18	**Fulham**	**H**	**PL**	**3pm**
18	Emirates FA Cup Q-F			
APRIL				
1	Manchester City	A	PL	3pm
8	**Arsenal**	**H**	**PL**	**3pm**
11/12	UEFA Champions League Q-F 1			
15	Leeds United	A	PL	3pm
18/19	UEFA Champions League Q-F 2			
22	**Nottm Forest**	**H**	**PL**	**3pm**
22/23	Emirates FA Cup S-F	N		
25	West Ham	A	PL	7.45pm
29	**Tottenham**	**H**	**PL**	**3pm**
MAY				
6	**Brentford**	**H**	**PL**	**3pm**
9/10	UEFA Champions League S-F 1			
13	Leicester City	A	PL	3pm
16/17	UEFA Champions League S-F 2			
20	**Aston Villa**	**H**	**PL**	**3pm**
28	Southampton	A	PL	4pm
JUNE				
3	Emirates FA Cup final	N		
10	UEFA Champions League final	N		

* All fixtures are subject to change for TV scheduling.

MORE MORE MORE

Mo Salah would've swapped all those individual awards for two more winner's medals at the end of last season, but it's only fired his resolve to go again in 2022/23



MO, CONGRATULATIONS ON THE NEW CONTRACT! YOU SCORED THE JOINT-MOST GOALS AND PROVIDED THE MOST ASSISTS LAST SEASON – WOULD YOU SAY IT WAS YOUR BEST CAMPAIGN FOR LIVERPOOL YET?
Yes, I think I can say that. My first season was really good too and the assists were okay then also, so it was close, but I think last season was probably my favourite. If we had won the Premier League and the Champions League, I would have said that absolutely.

DID YOU REACH THE PERSONAL TARGETS THAT YOU SET FOR YOURSELF?
I was a little bit behind but that was fine, I could take it. The plan was 40 goals, but 31 was not bad. I was expecting to put in more assists last season too and I had 15 in the end so it was fine.

TALKING ABOUT THE GOALS, WHICH WAS YOUR FAVOURITE OF LAST SEASON?
Probably Watford away and [Manchester] City at home.

WOULD YOU SAY THEY WERE YOUR ALL-TIME FAVOURITE LIVERPOOL GOALS?
No. I think the goal in the final of the Champions League [the early penalty against Tottenham in Madrid in 2019] will always be one of my favourites. Also Chelsea at home in 2018/19 in front of the Kop and Roma in the Champions League semi-final [first leg] in my first season too.


97
M.SALAH
11

WE KNOW TRENT AND ROBBO COMPETE FOR THE MOST ASSISTS, BUT WITH SO MANY TO YOUR NAME AND WINNING THE PREMIER LEAGUE'S PLAYMAKER OF THE SEASON AWARD, ARE YOU PART OF THEIR COMPETITION NOW?

Well, I was the highest so I should be! They are competing with me now – I don't compete with them! They played in the last couple of games when I wasn't fit too!

But yes, I think they've been doing great since I came here five years ago. They both came into the team around the same time and I think they're doing an unbelievable job. They give so many assists for the team and both deserve to be spoken about at the highest level.

YOU ONCE SAID THAT YOU COULDN'T UNDERSTAND ROBBO'S ACCENT...

I still don't understand him – we have a translator who struggles with his English in the dressing-room!

HOW ABOUT TRENT NOWADAYS?

No, Trent is no problem. I understand him. We are close now, more than before, so we talk a lot and I am able to understand. But Robbo, I think a lot of people would struggle with him as well!

YOU SHARED THE GOLDEN BOOT, WON THE PLAYMAKER OF THE SEASON AND ALSO WON THE FOOTBALL WRITERS' PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD – HOW IMPORTANT ARE THOSE ACCOLADES TO YOU?

The collective ones are the most important and my main focus is always on them. But with the individual awards, the only ones that were there towards the end of the season, were the Golden Boot and the Playmaker, so I kept focused and just thought I'd see what happened. I was able to share the Golden Boot with Sonny [Tottenham's Heung-min Son] and also win the Playmaker award and, of course, that helped the team too.

I always go into every season wanting to win the Golden Boot and it is one of my favourite awards, but I would happily



have given both of the individual awards away just to win the Premier League on the last day. That would have been great and I would have taken that 100 per cent. It's always good to win individual awards but, to be fair, when we talk as players, no-one really focuses on the most goals or the most assists. The most important thing is trying to win trophies for the team. That is the main thing for us.

THIAGO AND HARVEY ELLIOTT WERE WEARING MO SALAH MASKS DURING THE CELEBRATIONS AFTER THE FA CUP FINAL AT WEMBLEY – WHERE DID THEY GET THOSE MASKS FROM?

From me! I got them from someone among our fans. When I was getting the medal, someone gave it to me. So I came down with it and they asked me, 'What is that? I said, 'My mask'. So they took it!

COULD IT BE A TRADITION IN THE FUTURE EVERY TIME YOU WIN AN AWARD?

Well, why not? That would be nice.

WHO IS USUALLY THE ONE IN THE DRESSING ROOM TO ASSESS THE MOOD AND GET EVERYONE GOING, SO TO SPEAK?

In a funny way or just pushing us for the game? They are two different things.

WE'D LIKE TO KNOW BOTH…

No-one is funny in the team! No, Kostas is funny, Joel is with Virgil. Robbo is funny if someone can understand him! But in terms of pushing the players forwards I always have to say Hendo and Milly have been there doing that since I came, Robbo too, sometimes.

There are a few players who do that, but I have to mention Hendo and Milly who are always pushing the players so much.

DO YOU THINK THAT'S THE KEY TO LIVERPOOL'S MORE RECENT SUCCESSES, THAT THERE ARE SO MANY LEADERS THAT CAN PUSH EACH OTHER ON?

I don't see it as leaders so much but I see it as the atmosphere inside [the dressing-room]. It's one of the most humble groups I have ever been a part of.

I have been in some other clubs but this group is really humble. The players are very calm and really respectful.

THE ATMOSPHERE INSIDE THE LFC DRESSING-ROOM IS SPECIAL, IT'S ONE OF THE MOST CALM AND HUMBLE GROUPS I HAVE EVER BEEN PART OF

Everybody has come from different clubs and backgrounds, but immediately you can see that everybody who comes here is quick in adapting.

Luis Diaz, for example, just came earlier this year and he's adapting quick. Kostas was similar, too. So I think the atmosphere around the dressing-room is great. It's not about leaders or something, just about the atmosphere and the vibe inside the dressing-room which is so good.

YOU'VE BEEN PICTURED PLAYING CHESS, SO WHO'S BETTER – YOU OR TRENT?

I'm the best one in the team at chess. You can get addicted to it, really! I played against him and I'm sure I beat him! I play it



IF YOU'VE WON IT ONCE, WHY NOT TWICE? IF YOU'VE WON IT TWICE, WHY NOT A THIRD TIME? SO I ALWAYS WANT TO WIN THE PREMIER LEAGUE AND HOPEFULLY WE WILL DO IT THIS SEASON

so much and watch videos so that I can just keep learning and give it a really good try.

No-one really knows this but lately I've started playing golf. So I have been playing golf too but I think chess is my favourite at the moment.

JAMES MILNER PLAYS GOLF TOO?

Yes, Milly plays. Some of the other players play too. I don't know if they want me to mention names or not, but I heard Ox is the best one. I can learn from them because I have just started and haven't really played that much yet.

PATRICK VIEIRA HAS SAID HE THINKS LIVERPOOL AND MANCHESTER CITY HAVE THE BEST CHANCE OF MATCHING ARSENAL'S RECORD FROM 2003/04 OF GOING THROUGH AN ENTIRE PREMIER LEAGUE SEASON UNBEATEN – DO YOU THINK THAT'S POSSIBLE?

It's always possible to do that. But, as you can see, it is so hard to be fair as only that Arsenal team has achieved it. I thought we were really close in the season that we won the Premier League but then we lost against Watford [in late February] and everything changed. What I can say is that it's really hard but it's not impossible.

WHEN YOU ARRIVED AT LIVERPOOL, WINNING TWO TROPHIES IN A SEASON WOULD HAVE BEEN VIEWED AS A GREAT SUCCESS, BUT WAS IT ENOUGH TO SATISFY YOU LAST SEASON?

It was great to win the Carabao Cup and, of course, the FA Cup is maybe the oldest cup in the history of the game and we hadn't won them before so that was very pleasing. We still had a very good season, but of course we wanted to win the Premier League and the Champions League too.

IN TERMS OF PROGRESSION OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS, HOW FAR DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU'VE COME SINCE YOU FIRST ARRIVED AT LIVERPOOL?

I've almost won everything with the team. I didn't notice that until Trent came up to me after the FA Cup final and said, 'By the way, we have won everything here'. So I think I have won everything with the team, collectively and individually, but there is always room to win more and I always want to win something for a second or third or fourth time. That's my mentality.

It's always if you've won it once, why not twice? If you've won it twice, why not a third time? So I always want to win the Premier League and hopefully we will do it this season. And with the Champions League it's always a case of if you've won it two, three, four times, I want to win it 10 times.





YOU ARE ALSO GOOD AT TABLE TENNIS AND HAVE WON THE INTER-CLUB TOURNAMENT A FEW TIMES…
Yes, you're right! I think no-one would have a chance to win against me at table tennis!

YOU'RE OFTEN TALKED ABOUT AS THE BEST PLAYER ON THE PLANET – DO YOU LIKE THAT?
Well, I've always said if someone says whether you are the best or not, it's always an opinion. I don't really like to be involved in that. The people can decide if they like your style or not. I never say I am. In my mind I always put myself above anyone, but I don't say, 'Yes, I am'. I just try to keep working to improve.

YOU'RE A VERY HUMBLE MAN – HOW IMPORTANT IS HAVING THAT QUALITY FOR YOU?
I think it's something where I see it as I don't have to prove anything to anyone. This is who I am. I don't have to show you that I'm a big player or a great player or a big guy or something. I don't have to act in that way. I'm just being myself and I treat people normally.

At the end of the day we are human beings and we deserve respect from each other. Anyone I see deserves respect from me and that's what I try to show.

IS THERE ANYTHING LEFT FOR YOU TO TICK OFF ON YOUR 'TO DO' LIST. AS YOU'VE SAID, YOU'VE WON EVERYTHING ALREADY…
Well, as I also said, there is always space for a second or third or fourth time. I think I have achieved a lot of things here with the club but I'm not satisfied yet. I need more. I want to win more and I am trying to give everything. Then at the end of my career we will see what unfinished business I have!

I'VE ALWAYS SAID IF SOMEONE SAYS WHETHER YOU ARE THE BEST OR NOT, IT'S ALWAYS AN OPINION. I DON'T REALLY LIKE TO BE INVOLVED IN THAT. THE PEOPLE CAN DECIDE IF THEY LIKE YOUR STYLE OR NOT. I NEVER SAY I AM. I JUST TRY TO KEEP WORKING TO IMPROVE



WE'RE GONNA NEED ANOTHER CABINET…

As well as winning the Premier League's Playmaker of the Season award with 13 assists in the 2021/22 campaign, Mo shared the Golden Boot with Tottenham Hotspur's Heung-min Son, with 23 goals each. It was the third season in which he has won the award outright or had a share in it.

Mo also won the Premier League Goal of the Season award for his majestic solo strike during the 2-2 draw with Manchester City at Anfield in October. The same strike also came out on top as BBC *Match of the Day*'s Goal of the Season.

Salah was named Player of the Year by the PFA and the Football Writers' Association and was also voted PFA Fans' Player of the Year for 2021/22. The Egyptian retained the latter award after football supporters recognised his stellar Premier League campaign with the Reds. He came out on top in a fan poll to claim the accolade for the third time in his career, with Kevin De Bruyne, Phil Foden, Conor Gallagher and Declan Rice the other nominees.

Other records Mo set in 2021/22 saw him become the first Liverpool player to score 20-plus goals in four different Premier League seasons, the fastest player to net 100 top-flight goals in Liverpool history [151 games] and the first player to score in 10 consecutive games for the Reds across all competitions.

The highest-scoring African player in Premier League history with 120 goals and counting, he also became the first player to score on the opening day of five consecutive Premier League seasons. He will be aiming to make it six when the Reds kick-off the 2022/23 campaign at newly-promoted Fulham next month.

Mo is currently ninth in the list of Liverpool's all-time record goalscorers with 156, just two behind Michael Owen. Should he notch 33 goals this season, he will move into the top five of that chart, also overtaking Liverpool legends Kenny Dalglish, Robbie Fowler and Steven Gerrard.




WILLIAMS

"THIAGO'S SWAZZED IT!"

That's how one pundit described the Champions League group-stage strike which has been voted the tournament's best last season by fans

Thiago Alcantara's long-range effort against FC Porto at Anfield has been voted as the UEFA Champions League 2021/22 Goal of the Tournament by supporters. The midfielder claimed the prize for his stunning strike in November's group-stage clash following a fan poll.

The Spaniard's effort was one of ten shortlisted for the accolade, having been selected by UEFA's Technical Observer panel. Karim Benzema's powerful header for Real Madrid at Chelsea in the quarter-finals topped the experts' list but was pushed into fourth position among supporters, also trailing Lionel Messi's first goal for Paris Saint-Germain against Manchester City and Alex Telles' volley for Manchester United against Villarreal, both in the groups.

"First of all, we have to think positively [about the fact] that we have great guys who can deliver amazing balls, so for sure, you are aware if something drops for you at the edge of the area," said Thiago in recalling his sumptuous strike.

"You are just aware of it, but you always think that you have amazing delivery, amazing headers [in the team], so you are thinking in the most positive way possible. If it comes, you have to finish the situation, and I love to hit the ball with this kind of volley. Fortunately, at the end, it was not just a pass – it was a goal, so we were very happy with the action."

The goal came after 52 minutes of the Group B game at Anfield on 24 November 2021, in front of 52,209 spectators. Liverpool had already qualified for the knockouts, and this Matchday 5 clash against Porto was sandwiched between two Premier League fixtures at home to Arsenal and Southampton, so manager Jürgen Klopp shuffled his pack.

Just days after making his Premier League debut, 19-year-old central midfielder Tyler Morton was handed his Champions League bow with Neco Williams and Kostas Tsimikas in at full-back, Takumi Minamino upfront and a fit-again Thiago making his first European start of the season alongside Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain in midfield.

In fairness Porto had enjoyed the better of the chances before the Reds broke the deadlock. An Ox free-kick was headed out to around 30 yards from goal where Thiago, the sole Liverpool player who had stayed back, raced towards the ball.

Without taking a touch, he unleashed a daisy-cutter of a shot that skimmed the pitch like a pebble across the sea before nestling in the bottom-corner. Few players can strike a ball with such power and precision; it was technique of the highest order to make the ball seemingly levitate before it flew in.

Sky Sports pundit Neil Lennon gasped: "Oh my goodness what a goal! What a finish! It is a free-kick wide on the right. Oxlade-Chamberlain swings it in and it's headed out about 30 yards and Thiago comes onto it on the half-volley and screams an absolute beauty low into the far corner. This is caviar. It is absolutely magnificent. He's 'swazzed' it on the half-volley."

Explaining his technique, Thiago continued: "You start with positioning yourself [according to] how the ball is coming [towards you], then the positioning of the other players and where they are, and at the end you're just focused on the ball – how the ball is spinning, how you have to balance your body to make sure the ball doesn't go too high and off [target], or low and off [target].

"You just want to hit it hard, because there is a great goalkeeper in front [of you], so, yeah, it is a mix of seconds – milliseconds – that you always have to think about it, and then the action comes."

He says he had a good feeling it would end up in the back of the net at the Kop end as soon as it left his foot. "Yeah, because at the end, when I hit it, and it passed through the first player, you can see I am running already [at that point], so you see that when I hit it, it was there.

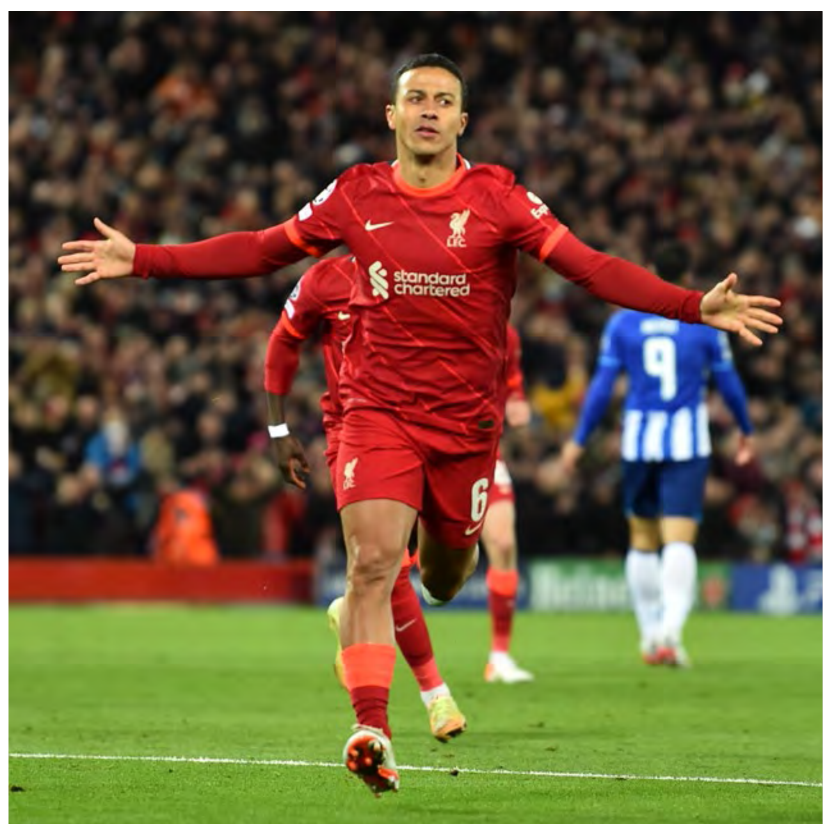
"You keep looking, because in the end we are talking about high-quality goalkeepers, and the direction, the speed, and the strength of the ball was good enough.

"Was it one of my best goals? Yeah, for sure!"

And celebrating the effort with the Anfield crowd made it even more special. "I'm not a player who scores that often. I assist more, make the team play, but I don't score that often, and when you score it's an amazing feeling, a special feeling. Scoring this type of goal is even better.

"Right after the goal, on the pitch while we were celebrating, some of my team-mates put their hands on their heads and their mouths were wide open – [there were] some words. So yeah, you feel it was a special goal.

"It was a Champions League game, and to score in this type of game is amazing."





LUIS DIAZ
23
Heineken
PS5

LUCHO'S WAY

So-called by compatriots because he's fought so hard so far, Luis Diaz reflects on his life back home, making the move to Europe, and lighting up Liverpool



FIGHT FOR YOUR DREAMS

The hardest thing about becoming a professional footballer has been to fight and struggle against all the barriers and obstacles that life can put in your way every day. Because I believe that you set out to fight hard to achieve your dreams and that means moving to live in different places, like what happened with me when I left my small town in La Guajira, to go and live in Barranquilla, another city, which is also entirely different to what La Guajira is like.

So I think that the obstacles that life throws in your way can be tough, like when people say 'no' and they close doors for you or like when you couldn't manage to get selected for a team and then, on others, you were able to make it in.

So when you fight hard against all of these factors, it makes sense of wanting even more to achieve your goal and fight even harder every day to realise your dream of wanting to be a great footballer. Of course, that was something I always dreamed of, and I always tried to work hard to achieve that.

I think that one of the biggest things to consider here, is having that desire and wanting it more than anything, believing in God, and also having that little bit of luck on occasions that we all need to achieve things.

BACK IN BARRANCAS

I've got so many great memories of my *barrio* [neighbourhood] back there in Barrancas! Loads of them. Whenever I get any holidays, I always make sure I go back there for a few days and spend some time with my family because that's where my relatives are from.

My memories? Well, playing with the other kids in the street, going off to a river, or the seaside and a beach altogether. Just hanging out with all my mates back there is incredible. Those times will remain in my memory forever and I'll always try, as long as I possibly can, to keep on doing that.

LIKE FATHER LIKE SON

I learnt a lot about football from my dad. It wasn't a problem at all because at the end of the day, he's my dad! What's more, he was known for being a strong character, that was his personality. He always tried telling us straight just how things were and how they ought to be. And the day that we didn't do something the way he asked, in spite of being his lad, he'd try and just put us right by saying: 'No, that isn't right, you have to do it this way, because if you don't do it, the others aren't going to either'.

So I have always tried to stick to the straight-and-narrow, and I owe him a big thank you for all of that because today I like to think I'm a decent person who always tries to do the right thing. That's as a result of what my dad taught me as a kid.



When you have a taste of success it makes you even more hungry to have it again. We can use the experience that we had last year to try and make us better and that is what we're trying to do now – I hope and believe we've learnt a lot from last year

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

I've heard people say that I suffered from malnutrition when I was a kid but that isn't true, not at all. That was a topic that used to come up a lot, but people had spoken incorrectly about it [and] that was never the case. Thankfully we always had enough to eat because, in spite of the fact that we weren't too well-off, my parents always worked hard in their jobs to ensure that we had our daily bread and that there was enough to eat on the table. So we never had to go without food.

Sure, they always had to struggle hard financially to provide us with certain things, but in reality we never really wanted for anything because we were a happy family. We always enjoyed ourselves as we lived happily with our parents. I think it was more about that, really.





A BOY IN EUROPE

When I arrived in Europe for the first time, in Portugal, it was a new chapter in my life that I was about to experience and it was a whole new world. You just try and overcome any of the barriers and obstacles that you might come across, don't you? Because just arriving somewhere and being the new boy, being a part of something different to how you'd always been used to doing things in Colombia, was a little bit tough for me and I found it a bit difficult. When your family isn't so close – it's a different language, different food and so on.

These were all factors that could have influenced how I was feeling and it was going to be a bit hard to settle in. But I tried to remain calm and relaxed and to be happy. I try to enjoy every moment that I'm living through and try to do the best I can, so the manager can see that I have that desire that I always try to display in order to get to play, which is what I want the most, along with winning big trophies, wherever I go.

PLAYING FOR PORTO

For me Porto represents a huge amount. It was they who signed me for the first time to bring me over to Portugal and Europe, which is where I'd always wanted to be. So they are of course always going to mean an awful lot to me, down to the fact that I learned a great deal from everyone I spent time with during my period there.

The coach [Sergio Conceicao], my team-mates at the time and everyone who was working around the club back then helped me enormously. They made me feel welcome and part of a family and so they'll always be important for me as I experienced some great things there and I won trophies with them.

From a tactical point-of-view and talking about football, I also learned a huge amount there. So, to this time today I still thank them for the time I spent there and I'll always be grateful for that.



SCORING AT BENFICA

I feel that goal [against Porto's fierce rivals in last season's Champions League] was a key moment for us because that's what decided the match.

In terms of the move, I think that we recovered the ball on the halfway-line, Naby drove forward really well and then slipped it through to me as I made a diagonal run, and then, when I was in front of the goalkeeper [Odysseas Vlachodimos] I decided to dribble past him and put away that nice goal.

For me, it was incredible to be able to score my first goal for Liverpool in the Champions League, and I was delighted to be able to help the team and be able to secure such an important victory.

I also try to live in the moment as much as I can, and for me, it was spectacular, especially as I was coming up against an opponent that I already knew well. So, for me, it was amazing.

To arrive here and settle in so well has been great; it's been amazing. I always dreamed about and imagined myself doing these things and I'm now fulfilling each of my dreams and goals.

To be honest, I'm really, really happy and content with having achieved it.

NEVER CHANGE

It is a big change now, of course. How I'm living now here in England is very different to life back in my town in La Guajira. But I'm still the same happy person, enjoying the moment and enjoying life. I also try to pass that on to my family and try and make them happy as that is very important. But for myself, I just try to carry on in the same way.

I suppose that people got the feeling since I've arrived that maybe settling in has been easy, but I can assure you that it's not like everyone thinks! You know, it's quite difficult to just come here and be a part of this great squad of players, and this great side, and try and settle in the best way you can. It's been quite tough from that point-of-view – you arrive here as a new player and you have to quickly get to know your team-mates, as well as all the coaching staff.

In addition, in my career I've always tried to conduct myself in the right way and to do everything as quickly as possible in order to fit in and build up an understanding as quickly as I can. But yes, the change has been pretty dramatic, I will always be trying to learn and assimilate as much as I can because I know that I'm at a moment in my career where I can't afford to stand still, but need to keep growing and developing as a player in the way that I have been doing so far.

It's been a good start so I'm hoping I can carry on in the same way, hopefully playing well, and performing in the right manner so that things continue to go well for the team.

> In my career I've always tried to conduct myself in the right way and to do everything as quickly as possible in order to fit in and build up an understanding as quickly as I can. I need to keep growing as a player






L.F.C.
standard
chartered
23
L.F.C.
LFC
LFC

LEARNING FROM THE BEST

For me it's a pleasure to be playing alongside players like Mo Salah, Diogo Jota and Roberto Firmino in the forward line here and Sadio Mane last season too. Sharing a dressing-room with them is just incredible and having that opportunity to learn from them every day.

They have some spectacular attributes to their game. They are just incredible players and blessed with the best technique, and what's more they always conduct themselves and look after themselves in the right way – they are true professionals in that sense.

The thing that I like most about them is just how competitive they are. They are ultra-competitive and they always want to win. They always try to do their very best and look to find a way to ensure things always turn out well.

Of course I admire their skill and technique and I cannot help but learn stuff off each and every one of them, all the time. All I have to do is learn from them and keep trying to fit in seamlessly as we get to know each other's playing styles over time. And I think moving forward we'll go on to develop an excellent understanding on the field.











It's obvious just what a great institution this club is and how much quality it has too, so I always wanted to come and sign for this club and I am delighted to be here

WEATHER WARNING!

When I first arrived, it was incredibly cold and I don't like the cold one single bit! But I think it's all about getting used to it. That's what I did when I was at Porto, where it was a little bit milder at least. But I just got used to it when I was there.

It's nothing really, it's what comes with being a footballer and moving to a different city. You just get on and try and become used to it. The bottom line is that I'm here to play football and I'm very happy.

THE BOSS

I had the chance to have a chat with the manager before I signed and he gave his opinion on me as a player and as a character too. I think he knew a bit about that. He was wanting to express to me that he was keen for me to come to the club and that he had faith in me as a player. It wasn't a hugely long conversation, but what was clear was that the club were keen for me to join them.

It's obvious just what a great institution this club is and how much quality it has too, so I always wanted to come and sign for this club and I am delighted to be here.


MANÉ
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TO SADIO WITH LOVE



Three little words – Mane has left – that are still hitting home as one of the greatest attackers in LFC history chases a new challenge

Words: William Hughes

Sadio Mane's departure from LFC will probably only hit home when the Reds line up without him at Fulham on 6 August. In six years of service at Anfield, the Senegalese star became a Liverpool legend, winning every major trophy on offer and thrilling all those privileged enough to watch him on a regular basis.

Among all the facts and figures doing the rounds after his move to Bayern Munich was confirmed, perhaps the most telling was that tweeted by statistician Michael Reid. His post revealed that Sadio left Liverpool with the best 'win-percentage' of any player in the club's history among those to have made more than 250 appearances. Indeed he is one of only five men to top the 60-per-cent mark, leading the way with 65.4% followed by former team-mates Mohamed Salah (64.6%) and James Milner (61.2%), as well as ex-midfield enforcer Steve McMahon (60.6%) and left-back/European Cup hero Alan Kennedy (60.2%).

It is an incredible statistic and testimony to the contribution he made since becoming the first summer signing of Jurgen Klopp in June 2016.

If anyone felt that paying Southampton £34 million was a risk, Mane quickly made the fee look like a bargain. He announced himself as a Liverpool player with a wonderful solo-strike in a 4-3 win at Arsenal on the opening day of the 2016/17 campaign, revealing recently it remained among the personal favourites of his final tally of 120 LFC goals.

He also made a great impact in his first Merseyside derby, scoring the late winner at Goodison Park just before Christmas. It inspired a line in festive jumpers and a new song for the fans: "Mane's scoring, all around us..."

Sadio, then wearing the no19 shirt, netted 13 goals in his first season to help Liverpool return to the Champions League, paving the way for the remarkable run of success that followed. Within two years they were champions of Europe and 12 months later won the Premier League for the first time in 30 years.

With Mane in the side, the Reds also went onto become Champions League runners-up twice and finish second in the Premier League twice, including last season during which they lifted both the FA Cup and League Cup.

The summer after Mane's arrival, Mo Salah also joined the Reds and, along with Roberto Firmino, they formed one of the finest forward-lines in English football history. Together they shared 338 goals in five seasons in all competitions.

Mane underpinned everything about his manager's attacking philosophy. Having started out on the right-flank, he switched to the left following Salah's arrival with the minimum of fuss. He quickly formed a strong link down the left with full-back Andy Robertson, the pair producing a template for a front-footed approach as they embraced Klopp's pressing and counter-pressing methods to a tee.

As well as operating down the sides Mane also proved adept down the middle and regularly showcased his aerial prowess. His final total of 120 goals left him 14th on the list of LFC's all-time leading scorers, above such luminaries as John Barnes and Ian St John who both spent a decade with the club.





> "WE MUST NOT DWELL ON WHAT WE NOW LOSE, INSTEAD CELEBRATE WHAT WE WERE PRIVILEGED TO HAVE. THE GOALS HE SCORED, THE TROPHIES HE WON. A LEGEND, FOR SURE, BUT ALSO A MODERN-DAY LIVERPOOL ICON"

Klopp admitted the 30-year-old's move to Munich was "a big moment – there is no point in trying to pretend otherwise. One of Liverpool's greatest-ever players is leaving and we must acknowledge how significant this is. He leaves with our gratitude and our love. He leaves with his status among the greats guaranteed. And, yes, he leaves in a moment where he is one of the best players in world football.

"But we must not dwell on what we now lose, instead celebrate what we were privileged to have. The goals he scored, the trophies he won. A legend, for sure, but also a modern-day Liverpool icon."

Mane's pace, power and panache saw him help the Reds reclaim their status as a powerhouse in Europe. Having played his part in securing qualification back into the Champions League, he marked his first game in the knockout stages of the tournament by hitting a hat-trick in a 5-0 win at FC Porto on Valentine's Day 2018. Liverpudlians loved it!

In that season's competition he scored ten goals in 13 games, including the 3-0 home win over Manchester City in the first leg of the quarter-final, both legs of the semi-final against AS Roma and the final against Real Madrid in Kyiv.

Twelve months later Mane and his team-mates were determined to make amends for that result in the Ukrainian capital. He also enjoyed his best Premier League season in front of goal with 22 strikes, including six braces, as the Reds racked up 97 points in pushing City all the way in an epic 2018/19 title race. His total earned him a share of the league's Golden Boot award alongside two fellow Africans: team-mate Salah and Arsenal's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

He added another four in Europe with another double coming in the 3-1 win at Bayern Munich in the second leg of the round of 16. No wonder the Bavarians wanted to sign him! Mane opened the scoring with a sublime touch, turn and finish from Virgil van Dijk's ball over the top. James Milner described it as 'ridiculous'. Quite.

Liverpool went on to lift the Champions League with Mane winning the early penalty in the final against Tottenham, converted by Salah, from which the platform for victory was secured.

Speaking to LFCTV in a farewell interview from his home in Mallorca, he picked out the second leg of the 2018/19 Champions League semi-final at Anfield – a night when Liverpool were without Salah and Firmino due to injury – as the favourite memory of his time here, along with lifting the trophy in Madrid.

"When we beat Barcelona at home, that was incredible, and as well when we won the Champions League. For me, so far that is the best, best moment, or the moment that will stay forever in my head, for sure."

Sadio was named African Player of the Year for 2019 and in 2019/20 was instrumental in helping the Reds end their long wait to lift the Premier League title, weighing in with 18 goals along the way. Eleven came at Anfield, including another derby strike, a vital effort in the 3-1 victory over Manchester City, and a late winner in the 3-2 defeat of West Ham United.

Away from home he came up with the goods too. A last-minute headed winner at Aston Villa made it eleven wins out of 12 at the start of the league campaign, while he later came off the bench at Norwich City in mid-February to grab another late winner which took the Reds a step closer to the crown they'd coveted for so long.

Two other trophies arrived that season, too: the UEFA Super Cup with Sadio scoring both goals in the 2-2 draw with Chelsea in Istanbul before the team triumphed in a penalty shoot-out; then, just before Christmas, he supplied the assist for Bobby Firmino to net the extra-time goal against Flamengo in Qatar which won Liverpool the FIFA Club World Cup for the first time.

The 2020/21 season was a tough one as Liverpool were hit by a catalogue of injuries. Nonetheless Sadio scored 16 times across all competitions, including both goals in the final-day win over Crystal Palace at Anfield that secured a third-placed finish and, with it, Champions League football in 2021/22.

His strong bond with the Liverpool support was always clear. So much so that he even attempted to sing one of 'his' songs during his farewell interview with the club's TV channel! In December 2020 he'd also fulfilled a promise to copy the goal-celebration of Liverpool fan Lee Swan after they'd got to know each other during a show on LFCTV.

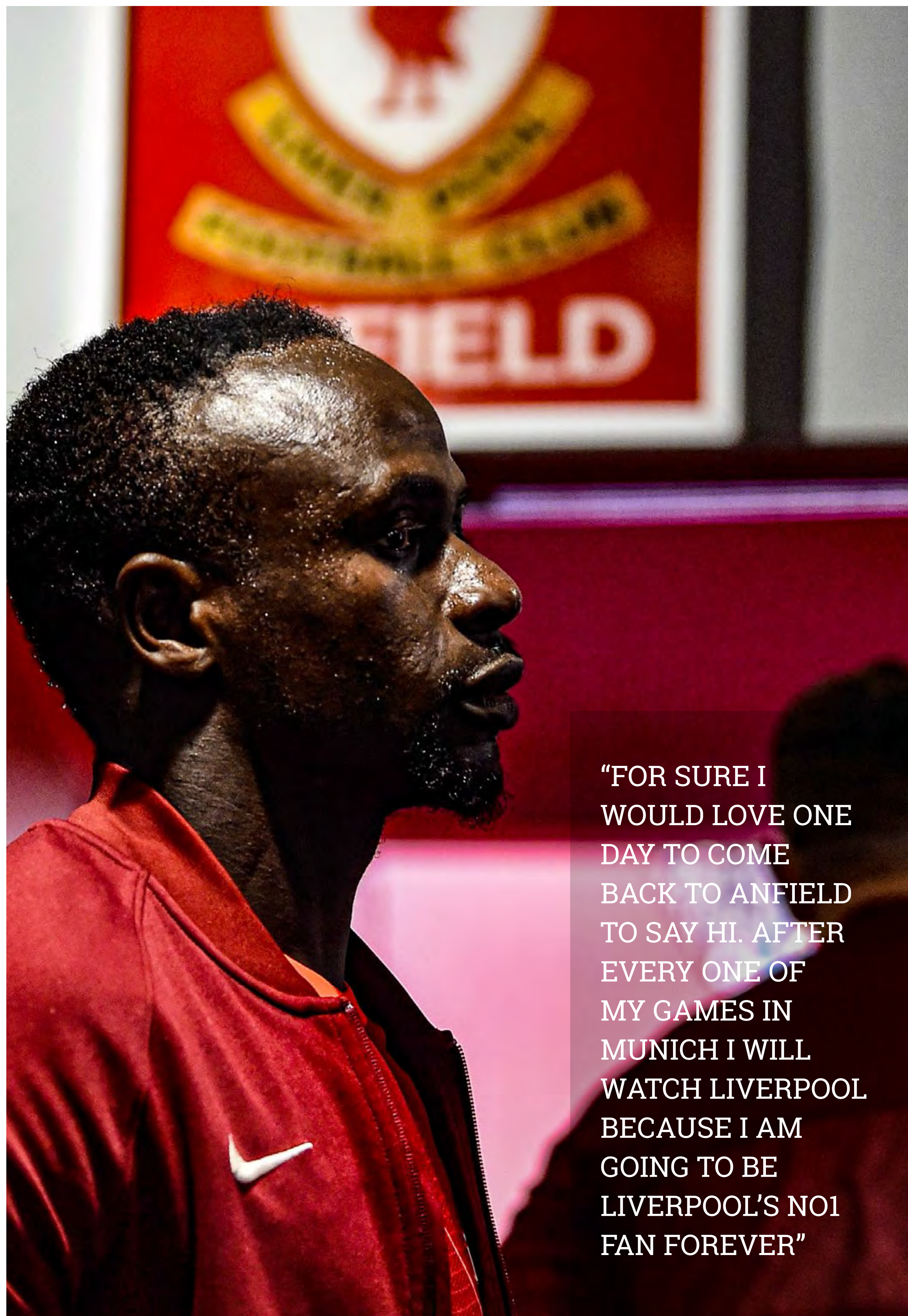
He duly performed it at the earliest opportunity, after scoring in the 7-0 club-record Premier League away-win at Selhurst Park. Incidentally he scored ten of his Liverpool goals against the Eagles, more than against any other opponent.



Last season Mane was an integral part of the Liverpool side that came so close to winning an unprecedented quadruple. After helping Senegal win the AFCON for the first time in early February (converting the winning penalty in a shoot-out after the final against Egypt had ended goalless, and later being named Player of the Tournament), he returned looking super-sharp.

"For the past four or five years he's been unbelievable," former Manchester City and Ivory Coast midfielder Yaya Toure told the BBC World Service. "How can you tell me this lad is not in the top three of the Ballon d'Or? How is it possible?





“FOR SURE I WOULD LOVE ONE DAY TO COME BACK TO ANFIELD TO SAY HI. AFTER EVERY ONE OF MY GAMES IN MUNICH I WILL WATCH LIVERPOOL BECAUSE I AM GOING TO BE LIVERPOOL’S NO1 FAN FOREVER”

"In terms of winning trophies, he is up there. Liverpool at the moment are everywhere – Champions League, Premier League, FA Cup, League Cup."

In the second half of the 2021/22 season, Liverpool won 16 and drew three of their 19 Premier League fixtures and, after arriving back from international duty, Mane was in inspirational form. His goal earned a point at Manchester City in April and his superb header kept the Reds' title bid alive at Aston Villa in the midst of a punishing schedule which saw the team play all 63 games available to them.

The title race came down to the final day. When Liverpool needed a boost after conceding an early opening goal against Wolves, he struck to level things up and maintain his record of goals on the final day of the season – this was his sixth. Liverpool went on to win 3-1 but were again pipped to the Premier League crown by City by a single point after both North West rivals had once more amassed more than 90.

Sadio was key in the pursuit of other trophies, too. After winning the League Cup for the first time in February, he shone on his return to Wembley for the FA Cup semi-final against City in April. He quite literally pressed City keeper Zack Steffen into an error that forced his first goal before following it up with a brilliant volley to help book Liverpool's place in the final where they would triumph on penalties against Chelsea again. It was his sixth major trophy with the club.

In Europe he scored home and away against Villarreal in the Champions League semi-finals to take the Reds to the final for the third time in five seasons. Only the brilliance of Thibaut Courtois stopped him scoring against Real Madrid in Paris at the end of a marathon campaign.



"It was a great, great, great season," he said. "Unlucky for us, we were so, so close but of course still I think it was the greatest season and the [most] enjoyable season I had in Liverpool because I can say we were almost there to win the quadruple, which would have been amazing."

In his final interview with LFCTV as a Liverpool player, he admitted he'd achieved almost all he could during his spell with the club.

"From the first day I came to the club, I spoke to the boss when I was in Southampton and at that time we were not even in the Champions League. He called me and I said, 'For sure'. I just decided in my heart that I am coming to Liverpool because that is where I see myself and for me it was the right time and the right club to achieve everything.

"So I can say of course we won a lot and I spent a great, great time there. Like I always say, my life is always [about a] challenge and when it came I said to the club that I wanted to leave. It is not anything else, it is just a challenge because for me I want to always be challenging myself to get better and better."

Mane also reflected on his lethal link-up with Salah and Firmino. "Wow, Bobby and Mo – what players! I think there are no other secrets because playing alongside these great players, they make everything easier for me. Bobby dropped and made space for me and Mo was just incredible.

"Liverpool still have great players and you have now Diogo and Diaz. But it's normal, it's the best club in the world, so I wish them all the best, but for me football is always about dedication and to work very, very hard. That's what I trust and those players did it and are doing it, so I think it will work always well for them."

Another stat published following the announcement of his departure said that Sadio had hit double-figures in each of his eight seasons in the Premier League – the most anyone had achieved.

Klopp added: "Since he first stepped through the door, he made us better. If someone had told us in that moment what he would go on to contribute and achieve for this club, I'm not sure it would have been possible to comprehend in that moment – not the scale of it at least. Sadio made it all possible.

"To be that good for such a sustained period and continuously improve season on season – no matter how high he set his own bar in the previous one – is an example to any player anywhere on the planet that professionalism and dedication leads to reward.

"I respect completely his decision and I'm sure our supporters do also. If you love LFC, you have to love Sadio – non-negotiable. It is possible to do this while accepting our loss is Bayern's gain.

"We wish him nothing but success in every match he plays in – unless, of course, it's against us. His star will continue to rise, I have no doubts.

"I remember last season I was asked to describe Sadio in three words. I said at the time it's not possible to do this. I'd need to be allowed multiple attempts because there are so many ways you can describe him using three words.

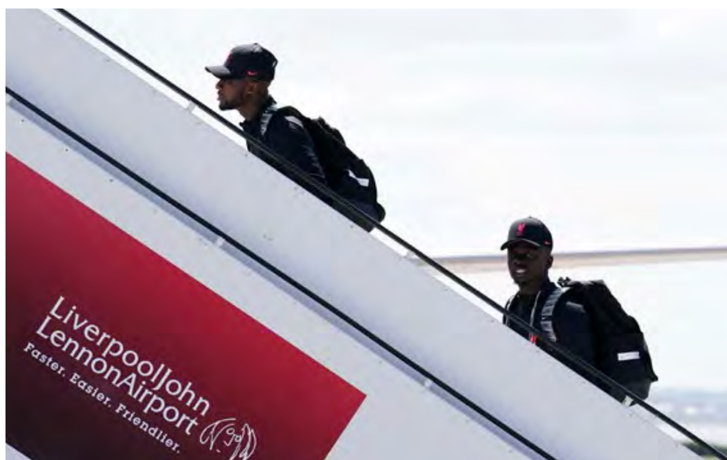
"World class player! True club legend! Ideal role model! The perfect team-mate! Compassionate, caring person! But the three words that feel the most appropriate today are also the hardest to say: 'Will miss you!'"

The man himself admitted the feeling was mutual and says he will now join LFC's huge fanbase. "Whoever is leaving Liverpool, with those supporters you will always miss them because they are the best in the world and I have always said it. Playing at Anfield always gives you so much power because of the fans. So, for sure I am going to miss you guys.

"I still have my house in Liverpool and everything so for sure I would love one day to come back to Anfield to say hi and of course to watch Liverpool playing. After every one of my games in Munich I will come to the dressing-room and I will watch Liverpool, for sure, because I am going to be Liverpool's no1 fan forever.

"I just want to say good luck to them and I have an eye on them! And for sure they will be even better because I know the boys: great players, great talent, great maturity and attitude. So, of course, Liverpool will always stay even better."

Good luck Sadio and thanks for the memories.




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LFC
AXA
FLY BETTER
ENERGY DRINK
FLY BETTER

TAKI BYE



"Minamino, here we go again! Why why, Salzburg ever let you go!" The Kop had a song for the Japanese international and there will always be a place in our hearts for him too as he heads for France

Does anybody who knows anything have a bad word to say about Takumi Minamino? Thought not. Liverpool FC's first Japanese player has left for Monaco with a special tribute from Jürgen Klopp and the very best wishes of the fans.

The manager admitted: "It's hard to see Taki go, but it's a great move for him and one he thoroughly deserves. An amazing professional; super, talented player. As a person he is full of warmth and makes everyone feel positive. A manager's dream, to be honest."

Minamino was one of those players that Kopites willed to do well. Although he could never quite nail down a regular place, he certainly had his moments in a red shirt and leaves with Klopp declaring: "His contribution far outweighs the opportunities we were able to give, in terms of starting matches. He made us better each and every day he was with us – not just in the games he played in but every single session in training. Perfect attitude, winner's mentality.

"His performances and his goals are the reason we have had to redecorate the Champions Wall so often. His achievements here will stand the test of time.

"I know he will be a big success at Monaco. I'm sure we will look on with a mix of celebration and envy as he progresses and flourishes there. He leaves with our appreciation and best wishes. Thank you, Taki."

Unbeknown to anyone, Minamino's move to Anfield could not have come at a worse time. January 2020, a new club, a new country, new team-mates…and a just-never-saw-it-coming global pandemic.

He'd impressed against the Reds earlier in the season with RB Salzburg in the Champions League group stages, scoring at Anfield in a seven-goal thriller, but he struggled to break into a formidable, title-chasing Liverpool starting XI.

He finished the 2019/20 season with a Premier League winner's medal but was loaned out to Southampton midway through the following campaign. Upon his return, chances to shine were once again few-and-far-between and he was mainly restricted to appearances in domestic cup competitions.

He scored four goals against Norwich City in Carabao Cup (away) and FA Cup (home) ties. There was a thrilling last-minute equaliser at home to Leicester City in the former of those tournaments, and a brilliantly-taken leveller away to Southampton as the title-race played out. In all he finished last season with ten goals in 24 games.

Taki took to social-media upon completing his move to the French Ligue 1 club to post this heartfelt message…

"Dearest LFC support[er]s, I was so happy when I joined the LFC family two-and-a-half years ago, but my time has come to an end. I had a fantastic time, and I will never forget the massive support I received from you all at Anfield. I wish you all the best.

"Sayonara, goodbye. YNWA. Taki."



THIS WAY UP

While delighted that several youngsters made their senior Reds debuts last season, Liverpool FC Academy boss Alex Inglethorpe insists that relationships, trust and pathways to progress are what really matter

The Reds will be aiming for another strong season at youth level after a successful 2021/22 campaign. The main aim of the LFC Academy is always to produce players for the first-team squad, and seven players made their senior debuts last term.

One of them, midfielder Tyler Morton, started matches in all four of the competitions in which the Reds played, while Conor Bradley and Max Woltman sampled cup football in both the UEFA Champions League and FA Cup.

Moreover winger Kaide Gordon tasted the feeling of scoring his first Liverpool goal in front of the Kop in the FA Cup victory over Shrewsbury Town, a game which also saw midfielder Melkamu Frauendorf make his first-team bow off the bench, while winger Harvey Blair and left-back Owen Beck both featured along the road to glory in the Carabao Cup.

On top of that, another half-dozen players – goalkeeping trio Marcelo Pitaluga, Harvey Davies and Liam Hughes, plus defender Jarell Quansah and midfielders James Balagizi and Isaac Mabaya – all made the bench for the senior squad.

It was something that naturally delighted Academy director Alex Inglethorpe, now into his tenth year with LFC, although he sounded a word of caution as he encouraged the club's talented teens to maintain their levels of development.

In an interview with LFC's official website he said: "Debuts, I think, are one thing, but I don't really consider a player a first-team player unless they have played two years as a starter.

"To make your debut is an amazing achievement, it is so special and it is something that can never be taken from you. But there is a marked difference between a debut and becoming a Liverpool player. To become a Liverpool player and to establish yourself and become two years as a starter is, of course, incredibly difficult to do.



"There are different ways of doing it. We are very fortunate to have a manager like we do and a manager who is prepared to give boys an opportunity and give them debuts.

"I know Pep [Lijnders], Vitor [Matos] and John Achterberg are all huge supporters of youth and the most precious gift they can give them is opportunity, and that's what they do.

"When you reflect on the Academy, it's not just necessarily what happens here with the Under-Nines to Under-23s programme. I still consider Trent and a few of the boys who were out on loan. Working backwards, I'd say it's great that Trent has continued to evolve as a player and as a person.

"To have played in the four competitions and won two of them was pleasing – the two he hadn't won before, so I know how much that would have meant to him. I also know how disappointed he was that he wasn't able to get the other two as well. So to see him evolve has been really good.

"With Curtis Jones it's the same. Curtis has been able to play his part and the percentage of games he's playing each year is creeping up, so I think that's a real positive.

"For the likes of Neco Williams and Nat Phillips to both get promotions with Fulham and Bournemouth, having gone on loan, is also fantastic for us. The Academy doesn't just mean what goes on in Kirkby. We have to remember that we have had a lot of players out on loan – whether that is Sepp van den Berg, Neco, Nat – and I'm really proud of all those players and how they have progressed.

"Within the Academy it's nice to have seen Tyler Morton get a few games. The young lads more than played their part against the likes of Shrewsbury Town, Preston North End and Norwich City to help us get to the finals that we did. That bodes well. And on top of it, there's some nice potential to watch in both the U23s and U18s, and further down as well.

"Watching the teams and players at the Academy last season has been a very enjoyable experience for me."

Barry Lewtas' Under-23s finished fourth in Premier League 2 and ended the season with some silverware in the shape of the Lancashire Senior Cup.

The Under-18s ended their campaign as runners-up to Manchester City with a large number of the squad also helping the Under-19s reach the last eight of the UEFA Youth League.

Coach Marc Bridge-Wilkinson's free-scoring side netted more than 100 goals in all competitions with 34 of them scored by the prolific Oakley Cannonier. The centre-forward netted in 19 of the Reds' 26 league games in Premier League U18s North, including each of the first eight.

"Whether it's the U18s or U23s, I never get caught up in league positions," said Inglethorpe. "It's never something that's worried me and it's never something I look at because I know that it's transient. I know you will have players to play in it or you won't have certain players available to play in it.

"The way we work is with smaller squads and we try to promote players as quickly as we can. It means that often players who have got potential to be around the first team won't play in the U23s

Words: William Hughes



games. It's about creating opportunities and pathways for other players.

"I don't think the club judges the U18s and the U23s on league position. If we did, I think it would be a big step backwards because at the minute we are happy promoting the players that need promoting and giving them the opportunities so they can go on and progress."

The 2022/23 season will see a major change at Premier League 2 level with the upper age-group reverting back from Under-23s to Under-21s. It is a switch that Inglethorpe approves of. "It gets it back to the reality of what it actually is – which is an Under-19 league, in my opinion. Therefore, it allows players to play in it who are slightly older and I guess every club is going to do it slightly differently. For us, it doesn't and it won't change anything. Sometimes you can have players that you know are too good for the level and that can be equally as frustrating.

"I remember when Neil Critchley was in charge of the U23s and he mentioned to me that a few of the boys had gone past this and they needed another challenge because it had become too easy for them. If you look at our U23s side, the average age of the team is 18.94 in Premier League 2. Really, it's an U19 league."

Inglethorpe has also welcomed the opportunities afforded by having the first-team squad on the same site at Kirkby since they made the switch to the AXA Training Centre from Melwood in the autumn of 2020.

"The relationship was absolutely fine when the first-team was at Melwood," he reflects. "[But] moving here has been brilliant and really it's about relationships and it's about trust. There's a trust from the first-team for us to do our job in preparing the boys the way that we do and there's a trust that when they go up there they are going to be given the final layer of coaching or expertise and something we could never do here at the Academy. It's working well."

Inglethorpe also continues to enjoy the time he is able to spend with the coaches out on the pitches developing the next crop of talent. "I'm very well-supported, which allows me to go and do what I think I can add value in – which is out on the training field, coaching the young players. I don't want a desk-job just yet! I'm still enjoying the coaching side of it far too much and it is really enjoyable.

"This is an incredible club to work for. It's fantastic that we have former Liverpool players Steve McManaman, Rob Jones and Michael Thomas with us. Steve Heighway is still very much part of that as well, working in the evenings – he is amazing. The experience of people like that – legends of this club – is invaluable to these young players we have."

Another well-known face who has returned is Jay Spearing who will be a full-time coach with the Under-18s after leaving Tranmere Rovers last month.

"It's fantastic to welcome Jay back to the Academy," said Inglethorpe. "Jay will work with Bridgey and Tim [Jenkins, coach and head of analysis] and he will be actively involved on the training field with our young players.

"He will also be eligible to play for the U21s to provide experience for the young players when we need him.

"Jay is still quite young [33] and the impact he can have around the U18s is invaluable because he is someone who lives and breathes this club. More importantly, he has played across all four divisions, so he will be a really good addition for us."



UNDER-23s PREMIER LEAGUE 2 SEASON 2021/22

AUGUST			
15	MAN CITY	0-0	
23	Everton	3-1	*Gordon, Woltman, Ojo*
28	BRIGHTON	1-1	*Bearne*
SEPTEMBER			
11	Tottenham	1-2	*Gordon*
19	LEEDS UTD	0-4	
24	Chelsea	3-4	*Musialowski 2, Beck*
OCTOBER			
3	Man United	0-3	
16	ARSENAL	3-0	*Norris, Glatzel, Musialowski*
25	Blackburn	2-2	*Dixon-Bonner 2*
30	DERBY C	3-1	*Koumetio, Dixon-Bonner, Woltman*
NOVEMBER			
6	West Ham	0-3	
20	CRYSTAL P	0-3	
28	LEICESTER	3-0	*Bradley, Woltman, Bearne*
DECEMBER			
1	Brighton	0-3	
JANUARY			
10	Derby County	1-0	*Cashin (og)*
15	EVERTON	1-1	*Bearne*
24	Crystal P	2-0	*Gordon, Woltman*
FEBRUARY			
7	Leeds Utd	0-3	
20	BLACKBURN	1-1	*R Williams*
25	Arsenal	4-1	*Bradley, Koumetio, Bearne, Woltman*
MARCH			
12	TOTTENHAM	7-1	*Clarkson 2, Bradley, Norris, Bearne, Woltman, O'Rourke*
20	Man City	0-0	
APRIL			
2	CHELSEA	2-2	*Bearne, Norris*
17	WEST HAM	3-0	*Bearne, Morton, Clayton*
25	Leicester	4-0	*Bearne, Stewart, Norris, Balagizi*
MAY			
1	MAN UNITED	3-1	*Beck, R Williams, Bearne*

FAREWELL TO FIVE



Ben Woodburn is one of a handful of former Academy players who have left the Reds this summer. Having emerged from the age-group ranks at Kirkby, he became the youngest goalscorer in LFC history when he netted in front of the Kop during a League Cup tie with Leeds United in November 2016 – a record he still holds.

The Wales international, who'd made his first-team debut just three days before that landmark night, totalled eleven appearances for the club in addition to several loan-spells in recent years.

Also departing is winger Sheyi Ojo, another to be handed a senior debut by Jürgen Klopp. He clocked up 13 appearances at first-team level following a move from MK Dons in 2011 and scored once, in an FA Cup tie against Exeter City. Sheyi had spent each of the past five campaigns out on loan, with Fulham, Stade de Reims, Glasgow Rangers, Cardiff City and Millwall.

Midfielder Elijah Dixon-Bonner and forward Luis Longstaff – both of whom represented the club at senior level in domestic cups – and defender Sean Wilson will also embark on new chapters in their careers after leaving upon the expiry of their contracts in June.





PREMIER LEAGUE 2 TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Man City	26	16	6	4	65	32	33	54
West Ham	26	15	3	8	59	39	20	48
Arsenal	26	10	11	5	56	48	8	41
LIVERPOOL	**26**	**11**	**7**	**8**	**47**	**37**	**10**	**40**
Crystal P	26	12	3	11	54	50	4	39
Man United	26	11	6	9	46	43	3	39
Tottenham	26	10	7	9	49	45	4	37
Leicester	26	10	7	9	38	53	-15	37
Blackburn	26	9	8	9	50	56	-6	35
Brighton	26	9	7	10	41	41	0	34
Everton	26	8	5	13	33	54	-21	29
Chelse	26	7	7	12	39	47	-8	28
Leeds	26	7	6	13	44	49	-5	27
Derby	26	4	3	19	31	58	-27	15

APPEARANCES *(all comps, including sub apps)*
31, Jack Bearne; 28, James Norris, Tom Clayton, Max Woltman; 27, Billy Koumetio; 24, Tyler Morton, Conor Bradley, Marcelo Pitaluga; 22, Owen Beck; 20, Jarell Quansah; 18, Dominic Corness; 16, James Balagizi; 15, Elijah Dixon-Bonner, Mateusz Musialowski, Leighton Clarkson; 13, Rhys Williams; 12, Fidel O'Rourke; 8, Kaide Gordon, Tony Gallacher, Morgan Boyes; 5, Sean Wilson; 4, Liam Hughes, Matteo Rittacio, Luke Chambers; 3, Luca Stephenson, Harvey Davies, Stafan Bajcetic, Layton Stewart; 2, Sheyi Ojo, Isaac Mabaya, Oakley Cannonier, Bobby Clark, Harvey Elliott; 1, Jake Cain, Terence Miles, Nat Phillips, Paul Glatzel, Tommy Pilling, Melkamu Frauendorf, Oscar Kelly.

GOALS *(all comps)*
9, Jack Bearne; 6, Max Woltman; 4, James Norris, Elijah Dixon-Bonner; 3, Mateusz Musialowski, Conor Bradley, Kaide Gordon, Leighton Clarkson; 2, Tom Clayton, Billy Koumetio, Tyler Morton, Fidel O'Rourke, Owen Beck, Rhys Williams; 1, Sheyi Ojo, James Balagizi, Jarrell Quansah, Paul Glatzel, Layton Stewart.

UNDER-18s PREMIER LEAGUE NORTH SEASON 2021/22

AUGUST

14	STOKE CITY	5-3	*Cannonier 2, Balagizi, Frauendorf, Jonas*
21	Man United	5-0	*Cannonier 3, Miles, Stephenson*
SEPTEMBER			
11	Nottm Forest	3-3	*Cannonier, McConnell, Clark*
21	DERBY C	1-3	*Cannonier*
25	Leeds Utd	2-5	*Cannonier, Miles*
OCTOBER			
2	SUNDERLAND	3-0	*Cannonier, Blair, Frauendorf*
30	EVERTON	4-0	*Cannonier, Clark, McConnell, Bajcetic*
NOVEMBER			
6	M'BROUGH	3-4	*Cannonier 2, Frauendorf*
20	Blackburn	1-3	*Clark*
DECEMBER			
4	NEWCASTLE	3-1	*Cannonier 2, Chambers*
18	Burnley	5-0	*Cannonier 2, Clark, Mabaya, Frauendorf*
JANUARY			
15	MAN CITY	0-1	
22	Middlesbrough	6-2	*Cannonier 2, Davidson, Chambers, Jonas, Myers (og)*
FEBRUARY			
5	BURNLEY	4-1	*Cannonier, Blair, Frauendorf, Mabaya*
19	WOLVES	2-1	*Cannonier, Frauendorf*
26	Everton	3-1	*Blair 2, Clark*
MARCH			
5	Stoke City	2-0	*Clark, Blair*
12	MAN UNITED	5-5	*Clark 2, Cannonier, Blair, Jonas*
19	Derby C	1-1	*Cannonier*
APRIL			
9	LEEDS UTD	10-3	*Cannonier 4, Clark 2, Musialowski,* Scanlon, Chambers, Jonas
14	Man City	1-3	Clark
19	Wolves	5-1	Cannonier 2, Chambers, Blair, Clark
23	Sunderland	3-2	Cannonier Chambers, McConnell
26	N FOREST	0-1	
30	BLACKBURN	3-1	Chambers, Blair, Pilling
MAY			
7	Newcastle	5-0	Blair 2, Clark, Chambers, Koumas

UEFA YOUTH LEAGUE (U19s)

SEPTEMBER			
15	AC MILAN	1-0	*Woltman*
28	FC Porto	1-1	*Frauendorf*
OCTOBER			
19	Atletico M	0-2	
NOVEMBER			
3	ATLETICO M	2-0	*Quansah, Woltman*
24	FC PORTO	4-0	*Woltman, Corness, Bajcetic, Norris*
DECEMBER			
7	AC Milan	1-1	*Musialowski*
MARCH			
2	KRC GENK	1-1 *	*Cannonier*
15	Juventus	0-2	

** LFC won 4-3 on penalties*

FA YOUTH CUP (from third round)

DECEMBER			
11	FLEETWOOD	4-0	*Musialowski 3, Chambers*
JANUARY			
18	BURNLEY	4-1	*Musialowski 2, Cannonier, Frauendorf*
29	CHELSEA	3-4	*Cannonier, Gordon, Chambers*



PREMIER LEAGUE U18S NORTH TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Man City	26	19	4	3	87	26	61	61
LIVERPOOL	**26**	**16**	**3**	**7**	**85**	**45**	**40**	**51**
Man United	26	11	9	6	58	47	11	42
Nottm Forest	26	12	6	8	36	32	4	42
Blackburn	26	11	5	10	56	38	18	38
Middlesbrough	26	10	8	8	38	45	-7	38
Burnley	26	10	6	10	40	44	-4	36
Wolves	26	10	6	10	41	46	-5	36
Leeds	26	9	7	10	66	70	-4	34
Everton	26	8	7	11	28	37	-9	31
Sunderland	26	8	5	13	39	48	-9	29
Derby	26	7	6	13	31	62	-31	27
Stoke City	26	6	4	16	33	56	-23	22
Newcastle	26	3	8	15	27	69	-42	17



APPEARANCES *(all comps, including sub apps)*
36, Oakley Cannonier; 32, Luke Chambers, Melkamu Frauendorf; 29, Bobby Clark; 28, Tommy Pilling; 27, Terence Miles; 25, Isaac Mabaya; 23, James McConnell; 24 Luca Stephenson; 22, Harvey Davies; 20, Stefan Bajcetic, Harvey Blair; 18, Calum Scanlon; 17, Josh Davidson; 16, James Balagizi;15 Fabian Mrozek; 14, Lee Jonas; 12, Mateusz Musialowski; 10, Iwan Roberts; 8, Wellity Omoruyi, Kaide Gordon; 7, Billy Koumetio, Max Woltman, James Norris, Lewis Koumas; 6, Conor Bradley, Owen Beck, Jarell Quansah, Dominic Corness; 4, Francis Gyimah, Tyler Morton, Mick Laffey, Luke Hewitson, Niall Osborne; 3, Keyrol Figueroah; 1, Marcelo Pitaluga, Jayden Danns, Nathan Giblin, Cody Penington, Charlie Hayes-Green.

GOALS *(all comps)*
34, Oakley Cannonier; 13, Bobby Clark; 11, Harvey Blair; 9, Luke Chambers; 7, Mateusz Musialowski, Melkamu Frauendorf; 5, Lee Jonas; 3, Max Woltman, James McConnell; 2, Stefan Bajcetic, Terence Miles, Isaac Mabaya; 1, Josh Davidson, Luca Stephenson, James Balagizi, Tommy Pilling, Kaide Gordon, Jarrell Quansah, Dominic Corness, Calum Scanlon, Lewis Koumas.

STONES PAINT IT RED

Where usually Mo wows the faithful, it was Mick's turn to entertain a full-house at Anfield this summer and what a performance it was by the world's greatest-ever rock band



It was Anfield under the lights and utterly unforgettable once more…but not quite as we know it. Thursday 9 June 2022 saw history made off the pitch at the famous stadium as The Rolling Stones returned to Liverpool for the first time in five decades and were treated to a rousing rendition of the club anthem from a huge, ecstatic crowd.

Support act and local heroes Echo and the Bunnymen, fronted by Reds fan Ian McCullough, warmed up the 50,000-plus lucky souls inside Anfield before Mick, Keith, Ronnie and co duly blew the roof off. This was their first UK gig without the late, great Charlie Watts since 1962 and they paid tribute to their former drummer during the show, part of their 60th anniversary tour.

The day before, Jagger had toured the city and posted images on his Twitter account, and on stage he revealed: "I went past The Grapes [pub where The Beatles hung out], I had a chippy. I had a look at the Empire – the Empire, we played there 12 times in the 60s. Twelve times, I can't believe it. I hugged Cilla Black in Mathew Street, which is a lot closer than I got to her in real life!"





Among the setlist was The Beatles song *I Wanna Be Your Man* – "We'd been practising *You'll Never Walk Alone*," joked Mick, "but we thought we'd do one by some local lads instead." (Pedantic footnote: The Beatles originally wrote the song but 'gave' it to the Stones to record and release before putting out their own version a few weeks later.)

All the old favourites kept everyone buzzing and bouncing as the skies slowly darkened and the stage – the full length of the Anfield Road-end – dazzled with its big screens and light-show. Among the many highlights from the night: the sensational *Out of Time*, which neither the Stones nor this legendary venue could never be, and the impromptu crowd chorus of *YNWA* before the band's brilliant encore.

The *Metro* called it "a thrilling, life-affirming celebration of music" and *The Guardian* reported that "no other band has rocked this hard for this long, but an Anfield roar of *You'll Never Walk Alone* goes up to honour a group who are clearly still worthy of the title of the greatest rock 'n' roll band in the world."






Gretsch





The *Financial Times* noted that "not since 1971 have the words 'Hello Liverpool!' been uttered in the inimitable mockney drawl of Mick Jagger" whom the paper described as "a phenomenon of shimmying hips and trembling hands, working the crowd and selling songs with undimmed ardour. It was at least the 1,185th time that he had sung *Jumpin' Jack Flash* live, but he did so as though it was the first."

The *iNews* website called Mick "a symphony in perpetual motion last night, racing up and down a runway that reached to roughly where the centre-circle would be on the Anfield pitch, his pelvis as elastic as ever, cajoling audience members half his age into matching his moves."

It's been a summer of concerts at Anfield with fellow music legends Elton John and The Eagles subsequently playing in front of sell-out audiences as well. Already the new football season has a lot to live up to!




Sir Kenny Dalglish Stand
standard chartered

JULY/AUG

WHAT'S ON



COUNTDOWN TO KICK-OFF

The Reds will be bidding to start the season with some silverware when they take on Manchester City in the FA Community Shield at the end of July.

The trophy for the traditional season curtain-raiser is one that has so far eluded Jürgen Klopp during his tenure as Reds manager and, after penalty shoot-out defeats in 2019 and 2020, he will be hoping it will be a case of third time lucky when Liverpool take on Pep Guardiola's side at the King Power Stadium in Leicester on Saturday 30 July (5pm). Both sides could also give fans a glimpse of their new strikers with Darwin Nunez set to go up against Erling Braut Haaland.

The following evening, Kopites will be able to see their team back in action at Anfield when the Reds take on French outfit RC Strasbourg Alsace (7.30pm).

With preparations complete, Liverpool will then make the trip to the capital to kick-off the new season against Fulham with their Premier League campaign getting underway at Craven Cottage on Saturday 6 August (12.30pm).

The game could see another of Liverpool's newcomers, Fabio Carvalho, make his Premier League debut for the Reds against his former club as they come up against Marco Silva's promoted side.



JULY/AUG

WHAT'S ON



MATT'S REDS WAITING FOR WSL FIXTURES

In the middle of July, Liverpool FC Women will discover the identities of their first opponents back in the Barclays Women's Super League.

Coach Matt Beard's side will begin their campaign on the weekend of 9-11 September. The season will continue during the men's FIFA World Cup in Qatar but will include a winter-break from 19 December to 13 January 2023. The campaign is set to conclude on the weekend of 27/28 May.

The FA Women's Cup final will be held at Wembley on Sunday 14 May 2023. Fixtures for the Continental Cup are also due to be released soon.

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO...





ANNIVERSARIES

2 years since Liverpool lifted the Premier League title on 22 July 2020.

48 years since Ray Kennedy joined from Arsenal on 12 July 1974.

48 years since Bill Shankly announced his shock resignation on 12 July 1974.

56 years since Roger Hunt helped England become World Cup winners on 30 July 1966.

61 years since Ron Yeats signed from Dundee United on 22 July 1961.

84 years since Billy Liddell joined from Lochgelly Violet on 27 July 1938.

And it's 5 years since Andy Robertson signed from Hull City on 21 July 2017.

In the past five years, left-back Robbo has won pretty much all there is to win in the red shirt of Liverpool. Yet when he arrived back in 2017 to add to the competition for Alberto Moreno in the position, a few eyebrows were raised that the Reds had plumped for a defender from relegated Hull City.

The Scot joined for a fee of £8m deal, with midfielder Kevin Stewart going the other way for what was reported to be a similar fee.

After agreeing his move to Anfield, the then 23-year-old said: "It feels a bit surreal. There are no more special clubs than Liverpool."

The defender had joined the Humberside club from Dundee United for £2.85m in 2014 and made 39 appearances in 2016/17 as the Tigers were relegated from the Premier League.

He added: "When you grow up as a kid you dream of playing with big clubs such as Liverpool and to make that a reality is a dream-come-true for me.

"I just want to prove to people that I can do it at this level, and hopefully I manage to do that this season and do good things for this club."

Liverpool manager Jürgen Klopp said at the time: "For Andrew, this is another big step on what has been a quite incredible personal journey in a very short space of time.

"I know our environment will benefit him and help him push himself even more than he has already. This is a player who does not limit his ambition."

It proved a particularly productive transfer-window for the Reds with other additions including Mohamed Salah and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain.

BIRTHDAYS

Craig Bellamy 43 on 13 July

Vegard Heggem 47 on 13 July

Peter Cormack 76 on 17 July

Mike Marsh 53 on 21 July

Dirk Kuyt 42 on 22 July

Vitezslav Jaros 21 on 23 July

Jim Beglin 59 on 29 July

Mark Wright 59 on 1 August

John Wark 65 on 4 August

David Hodgson 62 on 6 August

Joel Matip 31 on 8 August

Owen Beck 20 on 9 August



WHAT'S IN





BEDROOM CURTAINS 72"
£30

DOUBLE DUVET
£35





SINGLE DUVET
£25

BEDROOM RUG
£25

STORE

SUMMER TIME!

SOME LFC ESSENTIALS FOR INSIDE AND OUTSIDE



OUTDOOR RUG
£70

COOL BAG STOOL
£30



ACRYLIC BEER GLASS
£6





OUTDOOR CUSHION
£25

BBQ ACCESSORY SET
£30





ACRYLIC CHAMPAGNE WINE FLUTE
£6



PICNIC BLANKET
£30

SOFT STORAGE TUB
£30



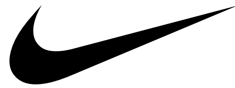

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WE ARE PLEASED TO RECOGNISE THE OFFICIAL PARTNERS OF LIVERPOOL FC









































WALK ON